MODERN DOGS
(Sporting).

RAWDON B. LEE.

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Modern Dogs.

Sporting Division.

Arthur Wardle

A

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF THE

MODERN DOGS

(SPORTING DIVISION)

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

BY

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THE ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARTHUR WARDLE.

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PREFACE.

In the following pages an endeavour has been made to summarise the progress, and describe the varieties, of the dog as they are at present known, and, I believe, appreciated, in the British Isles. Without losing any of the early history, my wish has been to introduce matter bringing the subject up to date; not only so far as the work of dogs in the field is concerned, but as they are found as companions, and when winning, or attempting to win, prizes in the show ring.

One or two new features have been introduced, or rather revived, the most important change being in connection with Mr. Wardle's illustrations. With two exceptions these are not portraits, although originally drawn from living examples. They are to be taken as typical specimens of the various

breeds they represent. The reasons for this departure from modern custom will be obvious; and no doubt, for future reference, such pictures must be more useful than any portraits of individual dogs could be—dogs whose prominence before the public is more or less ephemeral.

The exceptions are the drawings of the Greyhounds and of the Kerry Beagles. For the former, the extraordinary work of the two great greyhounds, "Master M'Grath" and "Fullerton," could not be passed over; besides, they form an admirable example of how two hounds, totally different in make and shape, can be equally good in the field. This is the first occasion upon which an illustration of the Kerry Beagle has been published in a work of this kind. The drawing that faces page 97 is taken from a photograph kindly lent me by Mr. Clement Ryan, of Emly House, Tipperary, and is, I believe, quite successful in conveying an idea of what a Kerry Beagle is like.

Following the precedent of other writers, a point scale is included in the description of each breed of

dog. This is done, not with an idea that such figures are of the slightest use in proving the excellence, or otherwise, of any animal, but because some readers, accustomed to such tables, might think the book somewhat incomplete without them.

I thank all who assisted in providing subjects for illustration, and in giving valuable information that could not have been obtained, except from owners who have made individual varieties of the dog a special study. To them I dedicate this work, as a slight return for their kindness and the interest they have taken in its publication.

RAWDON B. LEE.

Brixton, London, March, 1893.

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Modern Dogs of Great Britain.

CHAPTER I.

THE BLOODHOUND.

THE origin of the bloodhound cannot be traced with any degree of satisfaction, but we believe that no modern breed of dog is so like that progenitor of his that may have lived three or four hundred years ago, as is this well-favoured variety. Although repeatedly used as a cross to improve the olfactory organs, and the size and strength of other hounds, especially of the otterhound, he has always had admirers, who kept him for his own sake—because of his handsome and noble appearance, because he was a good watch and guard, and because he bore a vulgar character for ferocity not attained by any other dog.

The name "bloodhound," or sleuth hound, had something to do with this, and he always bore the reputation of being able to find a man, be he

thief or otherwise, by scent, and either run him to ground, as it were, or bring him to bay in such a manner as to make his capture speedy. He does this without biting or worrying his "human chase" in the manner writers have often told us he was in the habit of doing.

The natural instinct of this hound is rather to hunt man than beast. As a puppy he may put his nose to the ground and fumble out the line of any pedestrian who has just passed along the road. Other dogs will, as a rule, commence by hunting their master, the bloodhound finds his nose by hunting a stranger. There are old records of his being repeatedly used for the latter purpose, whether the quarry to be found were a murderer or poacher, or maybe only some poor gentleman or nobleman whose politics or religion was not quite in conformity with that of those bigots who happened to be placed over him.

Early in the seventeenth century, when the Moss-troopers (but a polite name for Scottish robbers) invested the border counties of Cumberland, Northumberland, and Westmoreland, it was found that the ordinary means of arrest and punishment were insufficient to stop the raids of the thieves, so special provision was made that should, if possible, put an end to their depredations. The Scots were fleet of

foot and active, and it was believed that the employment of bloodhounds would strike terror into the hearts of the marauders. The latter were to be pursued "with hot trod fragrant delect, with red hand (as the Scots termed it), with hound, and horn, and voice." Surely such a hunt as this would be exciting enough, and the hard-visaged borderers would have little compunction in allowing their hounds to give full vent to their savagery.

The following is a copy of a warrant issued in September, 1616, to the garrison at Carlisle, giving orders as to the keeping of "slough dogs:"

Whereas upon due consideration of the increase of stealths, daily growing both in deed and report among you on the borders, we formally concluded and agreed, that for reformations therefor, watches should be set, and slough dogs provided and kept according to the contents of His Majesty's directions to us in that behalf prescribed; and for that, according to our agreement, Sir William Hutton, at his last being in the country, and appoint how the watches should be kept, when and where they should begin, and how they might best and most fitly continue. And for the bettering of His Majesty's service, and preventing further danger that might ensue by the outlaws in resorting to the houses of Thomas Routledge, alias Balihead, being nearest and next adjoining to the Marshes (he himself having also joined them—as is reported), order and direction were likewise given, that some of the garrison should keep and reside in his the said Thomas Routledge's house; and there to remain until further directions be given them, unless he the said Thomas Routledge shall come

in and enter himself answerable to His Majesty's law, as is most convenient . . . . and that you see that slough dogs be provided according to our former directions, as this note to this warrant annexed particularly sets down.

The slough dogs to be provided and kept at the charge of the inhabitants, were as follows:

Beyond Eske, there is to be kept at the foot of the Sarke one dog; by the inhabitants the inside of the Sarke to Richmond Clugh, to be kept at the Moate one dog; by the inhabitants of the parish of Arthured, above Richmond's Clugh with the Bayliffe and Blackquarter, to be kept at Baliehead one dog.

Without quoting the whole of the warrant, it may be stated that six other "slough dogs" were ordered to be provided and kept at the expense of the following parishes, one dog in each: Newcastle, Stapleton, Irdington; Lanercost and Walton; Kirklington, Scaleby, Houghton, and Rickarby; and Westlinton; Roucliff, Etterby, Staunton, Stanix and Cargo, to be kept at Roucliff.

No doubt there was considerable difficulty in obtaining the levy or tax from the inhabitants to keep these hounds in condition fit to run down a man, and not hungry enough to eat him when they had caught him. In case of refusal to pay their dues to the sheriff or bailiffs appointed to collect the same, the defaulters were to be put into gaol till the amount due was forthcoming. It would be quite

interesting to note whether such imprisonment was ever enforced. Whether this was so or not, I have not found any record to show, but it was said that the hounds proved very useful for the purpose for which they were provided.

The utilisation of bloodhounds in the above manner did not escape the notice of Sir Walter Scott. A King of Scotland, Robert Bruce, threw hounds off his track by wading down stream, and thus without touching the river bank contriving to ensconce himself, squirrel-like, in a tree. The great Wallace, too, was so sorely pressed by sleuth hounds that to save himself he slew a companion whom he suspected, so when the creatures came up, they remained with the dead man whilst the living one escaped. Later the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth, who sought concealment in a ditch, after his defeat by the Royal troops at Sedgemoor, was discovered in his ignoble position by bloodhounds. Happily this was the last battle fought on English ground, and it seems strange that its cause, "King" Monmouth, should be so captured by means of a British hound. In 1795, two hundred bloodhounds were, under British auspices, landed in Jamaica for the purpose of subduing a rising of the Maroons. Fortunately this canine importation struck such terror in the hearts of the rebels that they at

once laid down their arms and the war came to an end.

However, long before Sedgemoor and the time of the border forays the bloodhound was used in this country. Gratius Faliscus, and Strabo, about the Christian era, mentioned the importation of dogs of this kind from Britain to Gaul, and Oppian immortalises in verse the Agassæos for their exquisite power of scent and great courage. These big dogs were obtained from Britain for the ignoble purposes of war. Afterwards they came to be used for hunting the stag and other large game, and from them are no doubt descended many of the fine hounds, still to be found in the possession of our Gallic cousins.

Dame Juliana Berners, writing in her "Book of St. Albans," published in 1486, does not appear to mention the bloodhound, or sleuth hound, but the Lemor or Lymer is no doubt the same dog, and so called because it ran the line of scent, and not, as it has been asserted, because it was the custom to run it in a leash. Dr. Keyes (1570), mentions them as having lips of large size, and ears of no small length. The learned doctor tells us how these hounds ought to be chained up in the daytime in dark places, so that they become bolder and more courageous in following the felon in the "solitary hours of dark-

ness." He likewise describes them as being run in a leash which is held in the hand of the man in charge of the dogs. This was to enable the huntsman, shall I call him, to be up with the hounds when his services would be required. It seems from the same writer, that, in addition to hunting the footsteps of the felon, these dogs were also trained to hunt the cattle that might have been stolen, a purpose for which he says they were much used on the borders. This may have been so or not, most likely the latter, for a drove of stolen cattle would be easy enough to track without the aid of a keen scenting "slough dog," though he might be able to be of assistance, should the thief be ambitious to try the strength and powers of his would-be captor.

From that period down to the present time, the bloodhound was mostly kept as a companion, and only occasionally has he been trained to "man-hunting," to the terror of the poacher and the evil-doer. For the latter purpose, he has repeatedly proved of great service, and many stories are told of the extraordinary power a skilful hound may possess, in its faculty for sticking to the old scent, however it may have been crossed and re-crossed by either man or beast. Colonel Huldman mentions the capture of some poachers through the instrumentality of bloodhounds, who hunted the men fully

for five miles from the plantation, in which they were committing their depredations. Another case is mentioned, where a sheep-stealer was discovered by similar means, though the hound was not laid on the man's track until his scent was at least six hours old. Another hound is said to have hunted for twenty miles a fellow who was suspected of having cut off the ears of one of his former master's horses, and the scoundrel was captured and treated according to his deserts.

The *Field* had the following not long ago:

In 1854 Tom Finkle, an old superintendent of police, was stationed at Bedale, in Yorkshire, before the rural force was established. He was the owner of a bloodhound named Voltigeur. Old Tom was fond of company, and at that time sat for many a night in the public-houses along with the farmers and tradesmen. When he was wanted for anything particular at the police station, Mrs. Finkle would let Voltigeur loose with, "Go and fetch master," and, no matter where "master" was, either in Bedale or the neighbourhood, the hound was sure to find him; and the moment Finkle saw Voltigeur, the old superintendent knew he was required at the station.

In the winter of 1854, or early in 1855, certain burglars broke into a house at Askew, and stole a quantity of silver plate and linen. The burglars, heard by the inmates of the house, had to decamp rather hurriedly, and a messenger was immediately sent to the police station to report the outrage. Old Tom was, as usual, with his companions at the Royal Oak, whilst his wife was in bed. The latter immediately got up and turned Voltigeur loose, with the order, "Go and fetch master." The hound was not long in doing his duty, and Tom, jumping off his seat, said to his

friends, "I am wanted at home," and hurried there as quickly as possible. His wife reported the circumstances of the robbery to her husband, who at once called his constable, and saddled his horse.

The two then started off to the scene of the robbery, and after visiting the house and learning all particulars, they went outside. When in the grounds, Finkle said to Voltigeur, "Where are they? Seek 'em," and Voltigeur, putting his nose to the ground, took up the scent and went away at a nice pace, every now and then giving tongue. The night being calm, Voltigeur's voice was heard by many. The hound made out the line of the robbers on to the High-street leading from Boroughbridge to Catterick, and after going about three miles on the High-street he stopped suddenly at a small watercourse that ran under the road. The superintendent dismounted and looked under the bridge, where he found a bundle containing a quantity of linen and silver plate, part of the proceeds of the robbery. He waited there for a time until his man came up, then, remounting, ordered his hound on again. Voltigeur put his nose to the ground, and went back along the same road he had come for about a mile. Then through a gate he made his way to an outbarn and buildings.

Here the bloodhound became more excited, and was baying and giving tongue freely as his owner and his man got up. The superintendent went to one door, and the constable to the other. The former demanded admittance, but all was still as death, and the doors fast. Tom looked about the buildings and found a crowbar, and was then soon into the barn, where he discovered two men concealed in the straw. They appealed for mercy, and prayed him to keep the dog off, and they would yield themselves up quietly. The prisoners were then secured and searched, and upon them was found the remainder of the stolen property. They were taken to Bedale, locked up for the night, next day brought before the magistrates and committed to the assizes, where they were sentenced to five years' penal servitude each, there being previous convictions against them. Voltigeur was of

the Duke of Leed's strain of bloodhounds, some of which were at that time kept at Hornby Castle, Yorkshire.

But dog stories, like the yarns of fishermen and shooters, are apt to become rather monotonous than otherwise, to say nothing of the exaggerations that creep into them occasionally. However, the authenticity of the above interesting account is beyond reproach, hence it was deemed worthy of reproduction here.

Captain Powell, writing in 1892 on the convicts of Florida (London: Gay and Bird), gives some interesting information as to the dogs used there in tracking such criminals as may attempt to escape. He says that, although bloodhounds were first used, they were found quite useless, and at the present time foxhounds were used for man-hunting in all the southern convict camps. These hounds are trained when young to follow the track of a man who is sent to run a few miles through the woods; and there is no difficulty whatever in so training them. Indeed, the author tells us that he has had hounds that were "natural man-hunters." He gives an instance where some puppies he was carrying at the time a convict tried to escape were put on his trail, and followed it until he was captured. Captain Powell corroborates what I have already written, that it is a popular error to suppose that hounds

attack a prisoner when they run up upon him. When once the man is brought to bay, they are a great deal too wary to venture close enough to their chase to run the risk of a blow; in fact, they merely act as guides to the men who follow closely on horseback.

Some six years or so ago, at Warwick, in 1886, an attempt was made to hold trials of bloodhounds in connection with the dog show held there. These were, however, a failure, excepting so far as they afforded an inducement to owners of the variety to give a little time and trouble to working their favourites, which hitherto had only been kept for fancy purposes. A little later, similar meetings were held at Dublin, in the grounds of the Alexandra Palace, London, and elsewhere, but in no case could they be called very successful.

I had the good fortune to be present at two particularly interesting gatherings, that took place during the wintry weather of January, 1889, and, maybe, the following particulars, written at the time, give a better idea of the modern capabilities of bloodhounds than could be written now. It must be noted that the hounds mentioned were of the so-called prize strains, were "show dogs" in the modern acceptation of the term, and, excepting perhaps in ferocity, they would no doubt compare

favourably with any hounds of the kind that lived fifty, a hundred, or more years ago.

Readers will no doubt be aware that, about 1889 and a little earlier, considerable commotion had been caused in the metropolis by the perpetration of some terrible crimes. The police arrangements were quite futile, and the murderers still remain at large. The attention of the authorities was drawn to the fact, that bloodhounds might be of use to them in such a case. Mr. Hood Wright offered the loan of his hound Hector, but, owing to the fact that he required some indemnity in case his dog was killed or injured, Hector remained at home.

Mr. E. Brough was then communicated with, and he brought from Scarborough to London a couple of his hounds, when they had several "rehearsals" in St. James's Park, where they acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner of Police; but it may be said, that, though repeatedly the line of scent was crossed by a strange foot, without throwing off the hound, when the same was done in the streets and on the pavement hounds were quite at fault. Indeed, to be useful in tracking criminals in a town very special training would be needed, and, personally, I believe that bloodhounds, even with that training, would be useless in our large centres for police purposes.

Under fair conditions any bloodhound will, in a few lessons, run the trail of a man a mile or two, or more, whose start may vary from ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, or longer. Some of the more practised hounds can hunt the scent even though it be an hour old, and we know that a couple of Mr. Brough's bloodhounds, early one summer's morning, hunted for a considerable distance the footsteps of a man who had gone along the road eight hours before.

This is, of course, exceptional, but, with a proper course of training during three or four generations, there is no reason to doubt that bloodhounds would be able to reliably make out the trail of a man who had gone three or four hours previously—so long, of course, as his footsteps have not been crossed and recrossed by others, or foiled in any other way.

That hounds will ever be got to track a criminal, or anyone else, on the cold, damp flags continually passed over by pedestrians, as in the streets of London and other large towns, no one who understands them will believe. Such work they never have done, and never will do; nor do the owners themselves aspire to such excellence for their favourites In country districts they may be of aid, but in towns, so far as appearances are at present, the apprehension of criminals must be left to the mental sagacity of the official biped.

Bloodhounds might be of use in smelling out any secreted article or a man in hiding; but an equally well-trained retriever, or even terrier or poodle, would do this description of work equally well.

The bloodhound stands alone amongst all the canine race in his fondness for hunting the footsteps of a stranger; any dog will hunt those of his master or of someone he knows, and of a stranger, probably, whose shoes are soaked in some stinking preparation to leave a scent behind. The bloodhound requires nothing but the so-called "clean shoe," and, once lay him on the track, he hunts it as a foxhound would the fox, or the harrier or beagle the hare.

To proceed with the following description of man-hunting with bloodhounds:

The storm of Sunday had passed, and how deep the snow lay in the streets and in the country places on the Monday, are now a matter of history. The air was keen and sharp, made so by a brisk north wind which blew on the Monday morning, when we left Euston station for Boxmoor, where we were to see two couples of Mr. Brough's bloodhounds run in the open country without assistance of any kind, and under any conditions which might prevail at the time. Surely the surroundings could not well have been more unfavourable unless a rapid thaw, immediately following the snow, had made them so. At Boxmoor

the country was thoroughly white. The snow lay on the ground to an uniform depth of about eight inches; where it had drifted, occasionally we were almost up to our knees. For a time the sky was fairly bright, but later a blinding shower of snow fell, which happily cleared off in about an hour's time. At our terminus we were joined by Mr. Holmes Pegler, who brought with him a dog hound named Danger, by Maltravers out of Blossom. This hound a few generations back can claim some of the old southern hound blood; but he shows not the slightest trace of this, being a good-looking black and tan animal, though not in the best of form, so far as health is concerned. He had very little preliminary training, and thus afforded fair evidence of what a bloodhound will do under adverse circumstances. Our small party—which included, in addition to the gentlemen already mentioned, three ladies in a sleigh, Dr. Philpot, and Mr. W. K. Taunton—made the best way along the lanes to the Downs, and, ascended them, on to the Sheep Hanger Common. Towards the summit we found ourselves on one side of a pretty valley, which even under its wintry garb looked quite charming, and afforded some idea of the beauty of the locality when summer blooms. However, before quite reaching the hill top it was decided to give Danger a trial.

A man was selected for the purpose, and the course he had to run was pointed out to him. The thickly lying snow made locomotion very difficult, and as even now there came a recurrence of the storm, a comparatively short start was given. In seven minutes from the time the man had set off, Danger was laid on his track, and, picking up the line in an instant, went away at a quick rate along the hillside. We tried to run with the hound, but to do this in the deep snow and keep Danger in sight was impossible. After following him some six hundred yards or so, we had to make our way to the tiny knot of spectators on the hilltop, and once there saw that he had lost the line, after running it well for something less than half a mile. In making a cast round, he unfortunately struck the wind of the spectators, and came back to them. Nor did he seem very persevering in attempting to regain the scent, giving us the idea that in previous trials he had not been allowed to depend upon his own exertions to recover a lost trail.

Mr. Brough's hounds included Barnaby (one of the couple brought to London at the instance of the late Commissioner of Police), and Beeswing, with Belhus and Blueberry, their offspring. The two first named are well-known hounds on the show bench. Barnaby had run at the Warwick trials; the younger

animals are fairly good looking, and their work was quite satisfactory. Blueberry was afforded the next trial, a stranger to him acting as the quarry, taking a course down the hill over sundry fences, making one side of a circle, a distance of about a mile. After eight minutes' law the hound was unleashed, and had no difficulty in hitting the line, though snow was falling heavily. She carried it along at a good pace, quite mute, and, a little at a loss at one fence in the hollow, cast well around, refound the line, and, without more ado, ran it out up to the man.

At one portion of this trial a labourer crossed the track, but the bitch stuck to her line, and was not thrown out for a moment. Without resting, the two couples of the Scarborough hounds had a quarry provided in Dr. Philpot. For some distance he made his way along the hillside, through scrub and stunted bushes, down to a hedge at the foot of the vale. Here there was a road, and, crossing this and a fence, the quarry made up a bare field to a plantation. Skirting the wood for three hundred yards, another fence was reached, across this, along some bare ground, by the side of another hedge, to the foot of the hill where we stood. No better view of such a trial could be had. This course was quite a mile. As the four hounds were to start, they were slipped

ten minutes after their quarry had gone. Barnaby, a little slow in commencing, was not long behind, and, with a fresh and cheerful burst of music, the little pack raced along at an extraordinary pace, considering the depth of the snow. A little hesitancy in the bottom, and Barnaby cast forward a little, had "it" again, "his wife and children" flew to his note, and away they rattled up to the plantation.

The old dog's size and strength were useful in this deep going, and he led the way; but scent must have been good, for, without losing it again, they raced down the hill, and fairly caught their man before he reascended from the valley. A good trial in every way.

Possibly the prettiest hunt of the day was afforded by Beeswing and Danger, with Master Pegler to be hunted, and a ten minutes' start given him. These hounds did not at the first hit off the line, but, when fairly on the track, went through the scrub, down the hill to the foot road, and over the fence without a check. Some nice work was done in the bare field, especially where the quarry struck off at a sharp angle, and along by the fence of the plantation. They had no difficulty in making out the whole of the course, which we would take to be about three-quarters of a mile

The final trial was run by the entire two couples

and a half of hounds, and, with fifteen minutes' law to the quarry. Now that the snow had ceased, the pack quickly went along the right line down the hill and over the first fence. In the middle of the second field, some quarter of a mile from the start, Danger seemed at a loss, and, turning back to his owner who was following as fast as the deep snow would admit, somewhat disconcerted the other hounds, as they turned round to the voice of Mr. Pegler, who called his hound up. Higher up the field Beeswing appeared to be the one that struck the scent again, her voice attracting her kennel companions, who rattled along the correct track up to a hedge which lay to the left. The quarry had skirted this boundary line, and made his way down hill to a couple of hay stacks, or, at any rate, stacks of some kind. He had doubled along the road here, but hounds found him without the slightest difficulty.

As all hunting and shooting men know, scent is one of the mysteries of nature. Here we were out on a day when one might reasonably expect that hounds would be unable to run a hundred yards without a check. Still, all these bloodhounds, with their quarry given from seven to fifteen minutes' start, hit the line, and took it along at a "racing pace," it may be called, when the ten or eight inches of snow are taken into consideration. The keen north wind, too,

must have been against scent, and one of the best trials of all was run in a blinding snowstorm. Surely, then, these bloodhounds have olfactory powers of more than average excellence; at any rate, that Monday they proved to us their possession of such. The men who acted as quarry had no knowledge of these hounds, no strongly smelling concoctions were smeared over their boots; and, indeed, they had been standing over the shoe tops in snow during the whole of the time the trials were taking place. So the "clean shoe" must in the end have been sadly water soaked. These bloodhounds did all we expected them to do, even more, and we are quite prepared to see the same hounds, under more favourable circumstances, hunt a man's trail or footsteps though they be two hours old. Running singly, each hound was mute; together they gave tongue, and their voices were very fine. It may be interesting to state that, in their earlier training, all Mr. Brough's hounds ran silently, whether hunting together or separately; but, working them with a noisy basset, they were tempted or encouraged to throw their voices, as they now do when hunting in company.

The trials arranged by the Kennel Club were advertised to take place on the racecourse adjoining the Alexandra Palace on Wednesday morning, at

10.30. As it happened, when that hour was reached, the only one of the three judges present was Colonel Starkie, who a little later was joined by Lord Alfred Fitzroy. Then snow began to fall, few of the stewards were in the dog show, and the prospects seemed to favour an abandonment of the trials altogether. Up to 11.30 o'clock nothing had been decided upon, so Mr. Craven, with his couple of entered hounds, went home. Next it was officially stated that a decision would be come to at twenty minutes to one, when it was resolved to hold the trials. The snow had by this time given place to rain; a cold, chilly wind blew from the south-west; and these combinations, with the addition of the wet, damp ground, upon which old snow lay three inches or more in depth, made the surroundings of these trials as unfavourable as they well could be.

Mr. Lindsay Hogg, in addition to the gentlemen already named, judged, but the duties were almost sinecures. Several tracks had been marked out by small flags, and, although these courses were said to be six hundred yards in length, they appeared considerably more—probably that distance straight away, with the run home additional. Each hound was allowed a track of his own, which extended along the racecourse for several hundred yards on the flat, over sundry lots of railings, winding round in the

direction of a small plantation. The hounds had to pass this, and then enter the road on the run home.

The latter portion of the track was along the same line by each man who acted as the quarry, thus making the trials more difficult tests for the hound; though those that ran first must necessarily have had the advantage, as the latter part of the road was less foiled by one or two men than it would have been by half a dozen. Two stakes were provided, the one for the "clean boot," the other for the "not clean boot." The latter in this instance meant that the shoe soles of the man acting as quarry had been rubbed with horseflesh, the only material at hand for the purpose. As a fact, the second stake never ought to have been arranged, and it is by no means to the credit of a bloodhound that he should require such assistance; the status of the trials was thus reduced to the commonplace "hound dog" trails, so popular in the rural districts of the North of England. As matters progressed, the bloodhounds actually hunted the clean boot better than they did the soiled one, and we would suggest that in future, when the "not clean boot" is to be run, terriers rather than bloodhounds should be utilised for the work.

However, in due course one of the keepers out of the show was despatched as quarry, with a start of

ten minutes, during which time he traversed more than three-fourths of the course. Then the first hound, Mr. B. C. Knowles's Koodoo, was slipped. He struck the line immediately, but lost it after going about a hundred yards, and, casting round, struck the wind of some of the spectators, and, failing to persevere, was called up.

Mr. W. J. Scott's Hebe III., a smart bitch, likewise picked up the line quickly, and, running it a little too much to windward, was at a loss for a moment. She cast well, and without assistance struck the scent, and kept it until she turned the corner at the plantation and out of sight of the spectators. For a time Hebe tried to regain the lost line, and looked like doing so until catching the wind of a labourer, and rather startling him by making his passing acquaintance. She failed to finish her task.

Mr. R. Hood Wright's well-known Hector II., who had performed well at the trials in the grounds of Warwick Castle two years before, and now nearly eight years old, was, after the stipulated five minutes, put upon the line. He did not start with so much dash as the bitch had done, carried his head nearer the ground, and ran the exact line the quarry had taken. This he did well, and the manner in which he leaped those railings the man had climbed, and ran under those he had crept through,

interested the spectators not a little. There was no mistake as to the correctness of his nose up to the plantation; but here, where the quarry had turned, the hound was at fault. He cast about till striking the line again, and was hard on the track of the man on turning into the road home. This he stuck to until near the goal, when he became somewhat disconcerted, no doubt striking the wind of the crowd as he approached them. His trial was very well run.

Mrs. Danger's Jaff was absent, and Mr. E. Brough's Blueberry strangely refused to run, though what we saw of her work on Monday proves her an excellent bitch, and her owner considered her about his best. Mr. Brough's Barnaby, mentioned earlier on, went quicker along the line the runner had taken than Hector had done, and, like him, cleared or went under the railings according to the mode the quarry had adopted. Just before reaching the plantation Barnaby lost the scent, but cast to the right and left until it was struck again. He, too, was a considerable time out of sight behind the plantation, but on reappearing in the road he was running the line of the man, which he continued much as Mr. Wright's hound had done, failing to quite come up to the winning post for similar reasons.

Dr. Hales Parry's Primate was absent, so the

end of the stake was reached, there being four of the nine entries that failed to meet their engagement. The judges awarded the prizes as follows: First, Mr. R. H. Wright's Hector II.; second, Mr. E. Brough's Barnaby; third, Mr. W. J. Scott's Hebe III.; the fourth, of course, being withheld. There was little to choose between the first two, for both ran excellent trials, considering the unfavourable surroundings, and afforded ample proof, even to the incredulous, that the bloodhound will hunt a man without even smelling any part of his person or clothes until laid on the track of his footsteps.

The second stake is of no account whatever, being that already alluded to, where the men acting as quarry had their shoe soles smeared with raw horseflesh. It was, however, thought that three competitors of the five entries would run well, so the time was taken, and Koodoo, who did badly on the "clean boot," now ran a brilliant course at a good pace, going the distance, including a check behind the wood, in five minutes. Hebe III. and Hector II. both began well, but, losing the line at about three-fourths the distance, failed to regain it, and were called up. They were awarded equal seconds, Mr. Knowles's Koodoo taking premier honours.

So much for the bloodhound trials; and now, when writing in 1892, they appear to have been

entirely discontinued, at any rate so far as public exhibitions of them are concerned.

With the introduction of dog shows the general public were enabled to see how far the bloodhound survived, and the early exhibitions held at Birmingham always included two nicely filled classes of this dog, which many persons believed to be almost extinct.

"Stonehenge," writing in 1869, says:

> Until within the last twenty-five years, or thereabouts, the bloodhound has been almost entirely confined to the kennels of the English nobility; but at about that distance of time Mr. Jennings, of Pickering, in Yorkshire, obtained a draft or two from Lord Faversham and Baron Rothschild, and in a few years, by his skill and care, produced his Druid and Welcome, a magnificent couple of hounds, which he afterwards sold, at what was then considered a high price, to Prince Napoleon for breeding purposes. In the course of time, and probably from the fame acquired by these dogs at the various shows, his example was followed by his north-country neighbours, Major Cowen and Mr. J. W. Pease, who monopolised the prizes of the show bench with successive Druids, descended from Mr. Jennings's dog of that name, and aided by Draco, Dingle, Dauntless, &c., all of the same strain. In 1869, however, another candidate for fame appeared in Mr. Holford's Regent, a magnificent dog, both in shape and colour, but still of the same strains, and, until the appearance of Mr. Reynold Ray's Roswell in 1870, no fresh blood was introduced among the first-prize winners at our chief shows. The dog, who died in 1877, maintained his position for the same period almost without dispute, and even in his old age it took a good dog to beat him.

About 1860, Lord Bagot, of Blithefield, near Tamworth, had some very fine hounds, and was success-

ful with both the dogs and bitches he put on the benches at the National Show in Curzon Hall.

Coming down to the present time, there are perhaps more admirers of the bloodhound than at any previous period of its history. Dog shows have, no doubt, popularised him; and, well cared for and well treated, made a companion of, instead of being kept chained in a kennel or in a dark cellar, he has lost most of his natural ferocity, and is quite as amiable as any other variety of the canine race. Colonel Cowan still keeps a hound or two at Blaydon, near Newcastle; Mr. E. Brough, near Scarborough, is perhaps our greatest breeder; but good bloodhounds are also to be found in the kennels of Mr. Tinker, near Birmingham; of Mr. F. B. Craven, Bakewell; of Mr. M. H. Hill, Birmingham; of Dr. Reynolds Ray, Dulwich; of Dr. Parry, Norfolk; of Mr. C. Garnett, near Bolton; of Mr. R. H. Wright, Newton-le-Willows; of Mr. H. C. Hodgson, Lichfield; of Mr. E. Nichols, South Kensington; of Mr. Morrel, Mr. M. Beaufoy, Mr. J. E. Wilby, and others.

Here mention must be made of the pack of bloodhounds, kept about sixteen years ago, by the late Lord Wolverton, who hunted the "carted" deer with them in Dorsetshire and in the Blackmore Vale Country. They were sold by him to Lord Carrington, who had them but a single season, during

which he showed sport in Buckinghamshire. From here they went into the kennels of Count Couteulx de Canteleu, in France, where they have been useful in hunting both wild deer and wild boar.

Prior to this Mr. Selby Lowndes had several couples of bloodhounds, in Whaddon Chase, where occasionally they had a run after deer. One of his hounds, named Gamester, bore a great reputation as a man-hunter, and on more than one occasion was useful in capturing thieves. This hound appears to have been a waif from some other kennel, for he was purchased from a hawker for ten pounds, the latter using him as a protection, and to run under his van.

Then it is said, bloodhounds have been owned by the verderers in connection with the New Forest in Hampshire, but they were known as Talbots, and most of these hounds were smaller than our modern hounds. Mr. T. Nevil had a small pack at Chillend, near Winchester, dark coloured hounds—black St. Huberts they were called; a well-known writer in *Bailey's Magazine*, gives a long description of them, which, he says, were descendants of the pack of which William Rufus was master. It was said they would hunt anything, from "the jackal and the lordly stag, to the water-rat and such 'small deer.'" At the present time there is no pack of bloodhounds

kept in this country for hunting purposes, still, with the many admirers of the race, there is little fear of the strain being allowed to become of the past.

As already hinted, our bloodhound has, in reality, suffered less from a craze to breed for certain exaggerated features, than some other dogs have done. He is still a fairly powerful and large hound, with great thickness of bone, well sprung ribs and considerable power behind. I rather fancy that, like most large sized dogs, he fails more in his loins, and hind legs, than elsewhere, nor does he, as a rule, carry so much muscle as a foxhound. No doubt in head and ears he has much improved since the time he was kept for the public good at the expense of the inhabitants of the Scottish borders.

Some of our modern hounds, have been simply extraordinary in what are technically called "head" properties. Perhaps the finest hound in this respect was Captain Clayton's Luath XI., a fawn in colour, a huge specimen of his variety, weighing over 106lb., but unfortunately spoiled by his execrable fore legs and feet. On the contrary, Mrs. Humphries' Don, that once did a considerable amount of winning, excelled in legs and feet, and loins—a plain-headed hound, always much over estimated. Mr. E. Nichols had a dark coloured hound, called Triumph, that excelled in head and ears, and perhaps

there has been no better hound in this respect than Cromwell, owned by Mr. E. Millais, but bred by Mr. W. Nash in 1884, by Nestor—Daisy. The head properties of this hound were so fine that on his death, in 1892, a model was taken of them by Mr. Millais. But here a list cannot be given of all the excellent bloodhounds that have made their appearance of late years, the dog-show catalogues afford a better selection than I could supply here, and the owners of the kennels named above are certainly to be complimented on the progress they have made with the bloodhound, notwithstanding the difficulty to be surmounted in rearing the puppies.

Mr. Edwin Brough, no doubt the most experienced breeder of the present day, believes the modern bloodhound to be much speedier on foot than in the old days of the Mosstroopers, and there are now, in 1892, certainly more really good bloodhounds to be found in this country, than has ever been the case. Perhaps Bono, Bardolph, and Burgundy, from the Scarborough kennels, generally have never been excelled, and now, in 1892, the two latter, as Bono had done earlier on, often win the special cup awarded to the best dog in the show.

The pedigree of our present bloodhounds has been well kept during the past generation or so, and their reliability in the Stud Book is undoubted.

The late Mr. J. H. Walsh ("Stonehenge"), in a previous edition of this book, appears to have obtained a prejudice against the temperament and character of the bloodhound, formed evidently by a very savage and determined dog of Grantly Berkeley's, called Druid. Whether modern dog shows have been the means of improving this hound's temper, and making him as amiable and devoted a friend as any other dog, I cannot tell; but, that he is so, no one who has ever kept the variety will doubt. Bring a bloodhound up in the house or stable and use him as a companion, and he will requite you for your trouble. He is gentle and kind, less addicted to fighting than many other big dogs; he is sensible, cleanly, of noble aspect, and in demeanour the aristocrat of hounds.

Of course, there are ill-conditioned dogs of every variety, but the average bloodhound will develop into as good a companion as any other of his race; he may be shy at first, but kindness will improve him in this respect. In hunting, he is slower than the foxhound, but more painstaking than are the members of the fashionable pack. He dwells on the quest a long time, seemingly enjoying the peculiar sensation he may derive through his olfactory organs, and will cast well on his own account. The latter, a faculty that ought not to be lost,

though in many hunting countries, where a good gallop is considered more desirable than observing hound work, the master or huntsman assists the hounds, rather than allows them to assist themselves.

The lovely voice the bloodhound possesses need not be dilated upon by me, and moreover, he has a power of transmitting that "melody" to his offspring to an unusual extent. I fancy that our modern otterhound owes something of his melodious cry to some not very remote crosses with the bloodhound; and if I mistake not, Major Cowan has found his strain of "Druids" useful in his well-known Braes o' Derwent foxhounds.

If asked to recommend a large dog as a companion, I should certainly place the bloodhound very high on the list, possibly on a level with the St. Bernard, and only below the Scottish deerhound. And in one respect he is better even than the latter; he is not nearly so quarrelsome with other dogs. Not very long ago, a bloodhound was running about the busy streets of Brixton daily; he never snarled at a passing cur or terrier, and was the favourite of every little boy and girl in the neighbourhood. Had their parents known that the big black and brown creature their children were petting and stroking on the head was a bloodhound, the

ferocious dog of story books and history, what a scene there would have been.

Sir E. Landseer, the animal painter, thoroughly appreciated the bloodhound, its staid manner, its majestic appearance. He, with Mr. Jacob Bell, kept hounds of his own, and all know how he immortalised them on canvas. His "Sleeping Bloodhound," now in the National Gallery, was a portrait of Mr. Bell's favourite Countess, run over and killed in a stable yard; and it was after her death she was painted forming the subject, "A sleep that has no waking." Grafton, in the popular picture, "Dignity and Impudence" was a bloodhound considered to be of great merit in his day, now he would be regarded as an ordinary specimen.

Mr. Brough, writing in the *Century Magazine*, about three years ago, goes at considerable length into the training of bloodhounds, which is best done by allowing the hound to hunt the "clean boot," rather than one smeared with blood or anything else. He says:

Hounds work better when entered to one particular scent and kept to that only, Mr. Brough never allows his hounds to hunt anything but the clean boot, but begins to take his pups to exercise on the roads when three or four months old, and a very short time suffices to get them under good command. You can begin scarcely too early to teach pups to hunt the clean boot. For the first few times it is best to let them run some one they know; afterwards it

does not matter how often the runner is changed. He should caress and make much of the pups and then let them see him start, but get out of their sight as quickly as possible and run in a straight line, say two hundred yards up wind on grass-land, and then hide himself. The man who hunts the pups should know the exact line taken, and take the pups over it, trying to encourage them to hunt until they get to their man, who should reward them with a bit of meat. This may have to be repeated several times before they really get their heads down; but when they have once begun to hunt they improve rapidly and take great delight in the quest. Everything should be made as easy as possible at first and the difficulties increased very gradually. This may be done by having the line crossed by others, by increasing the time before the pups are laid on, or by crossing roads, &c. When the pups get old enough they should be taught to jump boldly and to swim brooks where necessary. When young hounds have begun to run fairly well it will be found very useful to let the runner carry a bundle of sticks two feet or two feet six inches long, pointed at one end and with a piece of white paper in a cleft at the other end. When he makes a turn or crosses a fence he should put one of these sticks down and incline it in the direction he is going to take next. This will give the person hunting the hounds some idea of the correctness of their work, though the best hounds do not always run the nearest to the line. On a good scenting day I have seen hounds running hard fifty yards or more to leeward of the line taken. These sticks should be taken up when done with, or they may be found misleading on some other occasion. The hounds will soon learn to cast themselves or try back if they overrun the line, and should never receive any assistance so long as they continue working on their own account. It is most important that they should become self-reliant. The line should be varied as much as possible. It is not well to run hounds over exactly the same course they have been hunted on some previous occasion. If some hounds are much slower than the rest it is best to hunt them by themselves, or they may get to "score to cry," as

the old writers say, instead of patiently working out the line for themselves.

It is a great advantage to get hounds accustomed to strange sights and noises. If a hound is intended to be brought to a pitch of excellence that shall enable him to be used in thoroughfares, he should be brought up in a town and see as much bustle as possible. If he is only intended to be used in open country, with occasional bits of road work, this is not necessary. Bloodhounds give tongue freely when hunting any wild animal, but many hounds run perfectly mute when hunting man. This is, however, very much a matter of breeding. Some strains run man without giving tongue at all; others are very musical.

The points of the bloodhound are numerically as follows:

	Value.		Value.
Head	20	Back and ribs	10
Ears and eyes	15	Legs and feet	15
Flews	5	Colour and coat	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Neck	5	Stern	5
Chest and shoulders	10	Symmetry	$7\frac{1}{2}$
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

1. The *head* (value 20) is the peculiar feature of this breed; and thus it is estimated at a very high rate. In the male it is large in all its dimensions but width, in which there is a remarkable deficiency. The upper surface is domed, ending in a blunt point at the occiput; but the brain case is not developed to the same extent as the jaws, which are very long

and wide at the nostrils, hollow and very lean in the cheeks and notably under the eyes. The brows are moderately prominent, and the general expression of the whole head is grand and majestic. The skin covering the forehead and cheeks is wrinkled in a remarkable manner, wholly unlike any other dog. These points are not nearly so fully developed in the bitch; but still they are to be demanded in the same proportionate degree.

2. *Ears* and *eyes* (value 15).—The ears are long enough to overlap one another considerably when drawn together in front of the nose; the "leather" should be very thin, and should hang very forward and close to the cheeks; never showing the slightest tendency to "prick," they should be covered with very short, soft, and silky hair. The *eyes* are generally hazel, not small, though seeming so because deeply sunk, showing the third eyelid or "haw," which ought to be of a deep red colour. This redness of the haw is, as a rule, an indication of bloodhound cross wherever it is observed in other breeds, whether in the mastiff, Gordon setter, or St. Bernard, though occasionally it is met with in varieties in which no trace of the bloodhound can be traced.

3. The *flews* (value 5) are remarkably long and pendant, sometimes falling fully two inches below the angle of the mouth.

4. The *neck* (value 5) is long, so as to enable this hound to drop his nose to the ground without altering his pace. In front of the throat there is a considerable dewlap.

5. *Chest* and *shoulders* (value 10).—The chest wide and deep, forming a sort of keel between the fore legs; shoulders sloping and muscular.

6. The *back* and *back ribs* (value 10) should be wide and deep, the size of the dog necessitating great power in this department. The hips, or "couples," should be specially attended to, and they should be wide, or almost ragged.

7. *Legs* and *feet* (value 15).—Many bloodhounds are deficient in these important parts, owing to breeding from bad-constitutioned and sickly hounds, and, no doubt, from lack of exercise. The legs must be straight and muscular, and the ankles of full size. The feet also are often flat, but they should be, if possible, round and catlike.

8. *Colour* and *coat* (value $7\frac{1}{2}$).—The colour most general is black and tan, the legs, feet, and all or part of the face being a tan colour, and the back and sides and the upper part of neck and stern black. There is sometimes a white star on the chest, and a little white on the feet is admissible. Some fifteen years since it was not at all uncommon to see white flecks on the black and a white tip to

stern. The former peculiarity seems unfortunately to be quite lost, but the white tip to stern is still sometimes met with. A brown red with tan markings is common now, much more so than it was once. The most beautiful colour of all is a tawny shade more or less mixed with black on the back. This is, however, rare.

9. The *stern* (value 5) carried less gaily than in most hounds; it should not be raised beyond a right angle with the back, and usually when the hound is not working, it is carried rather low in a somewhat slovenly fashion. The lower side is fringed with hair about two inches long, ending in a point.

10. The *symmetry* (value $7\frac{1}{2}$) of the bloodhound as regarded from an artistic point of view should be examined carefully, and valued in proportion to the degree in which it is developed.

The average height of a bloodhound is about 26 inches at the shoulders for a dog, and from one to two inches less for a bitch, and 85lb. to 90lb. is a fair weight for a well grown specimen in good condition, though some few hounds have been bigger. Mr. Brough's Bono, one of the best all round hounds I ever saw, is 88lb.; he stands $25\frac{7}{8}$ inches at the shoulders, and girths round the chest $32\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Bono on several occasions, after winning premier honours in his own division, has been

awarded a special prize as the best dog of any variety in the show.

However, an all-round better hound than Bono is the same owner's Burgundy, who, like Bono, is a black and tan hound of lovely colour. When little over twelve months old, Burgundy weighed 111lb., was $26\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height at the shoulders, girthed 35 inches round the chest, and his head measured 13 inches, exactly an inch longer than Bono's. There is little fault to find with this extraordinary bloodhound, for in ears, type of head, wrinkle, shoulders, legs and feet, loins and general symmetry, his like may not be seen again. His demeanour and disposition are characteristic of his race; he has been trained to hunt "the clean boot," and is certainly a credit to his breeder. His brother Bardolph is pretty nearly as good—not quite so big nor long in head. The latter was shown at Manchester in March, 1892, where, after winning the cup in his division, he was awarded the more honourable one given for the best sporting dog in the show. These grand young hounds, no doubt the very best that have been seen of late years, are by Beckford (26,188) from Bianca (28,374).

It seems rather strange that at this same Manchester show a peculiarly good bloodhound bitch should be shown for the first time, this being Mr.

F. B. Craven's son of Cromwell, Constance, she being the sole survivor of a litter of extra merit in every way. As a bitch Constance, I should say, would have stood at the head of her sex had she not succumbed to an attack of distemper a few weeks after she had made so favourable a *début*.

CHAPTER II.

THE FOXHOUND.

THE most perfect of his race is the foxhound—perfect in shape, in pace, in nose, in courage. Not one of his canine companions is his equal, for in addition to his merits as a mere quadruped, as a hound he is the reason for the maintenance of expensive establishments, for the breeding of high class horses, and generally for giving an impetus to trade and causing a "turnover," without which the agriculturist might starve and the greatness of our country be placed in peril. Our bravest soldiers have been foxhunters; our most successful men in almost every walk of commerce have had their characters moulded in the hunting field, or later in life have regained their shattered health by gallops after hounds across the green meadows of the Midlands or along the broad acres of Yorkshire.

At the present time there are over 190 packs of foxhounds hunting regularly in the various districts of Great Britain, and I am well within the mark when I

estimate the cost of keeping up the kennels, including hounds, food, wages of hunt servants, masters' expenses, &c., at over three million pounds per annum. Nor do these figures attempt to cover the ordinary expenses disbursed by those hunting men who have not hounds of their own, the cost of their horses, their keep, and other items. What in addition these amount to cannot well be ascertained, but he will be a bold man who attempts to deny that foxhunting, as one of our national sports, possesses a place in the economy of the State. Special trains on our great railway system are repeatedly run to fashionable meets of foxhounds. Some large hotels are to a considerable extent supported by customers who visit them because of their contiguity to foxhound countries We have been called a nation of shopkeepers —a nation of foxhunters would have been more appropriate. One way and another the expenditure upon this healthy amusement during each successive season may be reckoned in millions of pounds sterling, and still there are so called humanitarians who decry the sport as a discredit to our country. Lord Yarborough says the cost of hound keeping at over four and a half millions yearly, and estimates that 99,000 horses are engaged therein. Another authority tells us that in Yorkshire alone

the seventeen packs of hounds, including harriers, hunting there are kept up at a cost of not less than 500,000*l.* per annum. Of course such figures, in the absence of carefully compiled statistics, can only be approximate.

"The fox was made to be hunted, and not to kill geese and lambs," said a sporting farmer to me one day, "and he likes it too," continued the good agriculturist, "or would he take such long rounds as he does when he could lurk and skulk about and baffle the hounds whenever inclined to do so." Maybe our good red fox does like to be hunted; at any rate, when bedraggled and beaten he seldom looks sad and pitiful, and the hunter loves him as much as he does his hounds; and why should he not love him and hunt him at the same time? The most kindly of all men, Izaak Walton, implies that an angler should love the worm with which he baits his hook, and no one decried such sympathy, excepting, perhaps, the cruellest men of the Lord Byron type.

Foxhounds have for more than three hundred years been carefully bred and reared for hunting purposes, and for that length of time the sport has been carried on in England pretty much on the same lines as now, taking into consideration the change in our mode of living and in the cultivation of the

land. But long prior to this period, foxhunting was a fashionable pastime, and Edward II. had a huntsman named Twici, who, early in the fourteenth century, became an author and an authority on sport. He said:

> Draw with your hounds about groves and thickets and bushes near villages; a fox will lurk in rude places to prey upon pigs and poultry, but it will be necessary to stop up earths, if you can find them, the night before you intend to hunt; and the best time will be about midnight, for then the fox goeth out to seek his prey . . . The best time for hunting a fox is in January, February, and March, for then you shall but see your hounds hunting . . . Shun casting off too many hounds at once, because woods and coverts are full of sundry chases, and let such as you cast off be old and staunch hounds, which are sure. . . Let the hounds worry and kill the fox themselves, and tear him as much as they please.

And so proceeds the ancient royal huntsman, who doubtless enjoyed his sport in those times with as much gratification as do we ourselves at the present day.

Although thus early there were hounds similar to those of modern times, they were not kept entirely for the purpose of hunting the fox, and to be actually perfect in work they should not be entered to any other quarry. There is some amount of uncertainty as to the earliest date when hounds were kept solely for the chase of the fox. I quite agree with that painstaking and researchful writer, Mr.

W. C. A. Blew, who, in his new edition of "Noticia Venatica," ascribes the earliest date to a year or two prior to 1689; for at that time the Charlton hunt in Sussex, conducted by Mr. Roper, who managed the hounds for the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth and Earl Grey, hunted the fox. Particulars of this appear in the fifteenth volume of the "Sussex Archæological Collection." In 1750 the Charlton lapsed into the Goodwood.

In the *Field* of Nov. 6, 1875, there is an illustration of an old hunting horn, at that time in the possession of Mr. Reginald Corbet, master of the South Cheshire hounds. On it there was the following inscription: "Thomas Boothby, Esq., Tooley Park, Leicester. With this horn he hunted the first pack of foxhounds then in England fifty-five years. Born 1477, died 1572." Here is another early date, and where could be found plainer proofs, though some writers have thrown discredit on them because they thought it possible these hounds occasionally hunted any out-lying deer that might be doing damage to the farmer's crops. As well say some of our modern harriers are not harriers because, when the legitimate chase is scarce, they have a day or two with the "carted" deer.

There was a very interesting old hunting story Lord Wilton writes, in his "Sports and Pursuits of

the English," that, not until 1750 were hounds entered solely to fox; but against his statement must be placed that of Charles J. Apperley, who died in 1843, and is favourably known under his *nom de plume* of "Nimrod." He says that an ancestor of Lord Arundel of Wardour had a pack of foxhounds at the close of the seventeenth century, thus about coeval with the Sussex and Leicestershire already named; and the same reliable writer proceeds to say that, remaining in the same family, they hunted in Wiltshire and Hampshire until 1782, when they passed to Mr. Meynell, a name so historical in foxhound annals. Another such pack was that of Mr. Thomas Fownes, who was hunting from Stapleton in Dorsetshire very early in the eighteenth century; but the Charlton Hunt and Squire Boothby's hounds had before this been entered to fox, and, with our present knowledge, with them must rest the credit of being the earliest packs of foxhounds in this country.

Mr. Fowne's pack went to Mr. Bowes, of Streatlam, Yorkshire; and the Belvoir hounds kennelled at Melton Mowbray, with the Duke of Rutland as their master, are lineally descended from those alluded to by Lord Wilton. Since these early times and up to the present every care has been taken, and no expense spared, to produce a foxhound as near perfection as possible, in order to follow the calling

which finds such favour in our land. Squire Osbaldeston, Colonel Thornton, Mr. John Musters, and others of a past generation owned hounds that, either collectively or individually, could not be surpassed. With so much attention given to them, it was no wonder a great writer on the subject arose, and in 1810 we have Peter Beckford's *magnum opus*, which, so far as it goes, has had no rival in its complete description of the foxhound, its work and management. And what he wrote of him is equally true to-day, for no hound or dog has changed so little in appearance and character during a century, as the foxhound. There have been no crazes for fashionable colour, or for head formed, or ears hung, on purely fanciful principles. Hunters wanted a dog for work, they soon provided one, and have kept and sustained that animal for the purpose.

The work a foxhound has often to undergo is of the most arduous description, he is repeatedly on his legs for eight or ten hours at a stretch, often galloping a great portion of that time, or may be doing more laborious work in the thick coverts, or even walking on the hard road to or from the meet.

Though not bred with great precision and with such care for pedigrees, as is the case with fashionable packs, there are lightly built hounds hunting in the mountainous districts of Cumberland and Westmor-

land whose stamina must be phenomenal. Their country is the roughest imaginable, over mountains and down the vales, edging precipices and scaling dangerous passes. Every season these hounds have a run that may last into the teens of hours, beginning soon after daybreak and not ending when stars have studded the heavens and hunters are left far behind. Last season hounds were heard in full cry at ten at night, and next morning stragglers found their way home to the kennels, others turning up a day or two later. Some had to be looked for, having become "crag bound," *i.e.*, clambered down to a cleft in the rock from whence they could not return. During such runs as these, they do not, owing to the rough country, go the pace of ordinary foxhounds, but they possess greater patience in working out a cold line, and are perfect in making casts on their own account. The latter a most necessary gift when they are at fault, and no one near them to assist in hitting the lost line, for this hunting at the Lakes is done on foot—horses could not follow, nor mules either, where men and hounds have to go.

So recently as the end of March, 1892, the Coniston hounds, the Rev. E. M. Reynolds, master, had an extraordinary run in the neighbourhood of Troutbeck and Kentmere. They were either dragging or

hunting for over ten hours, over a terribly rough and wild country, and their fox, dead beat and only just in front of them, had his life saved by a severe storm—the like of which is only known in the Lake district—coming on, and effectually driving both hunters and hounds off the mountains into the valley. Although the finish was not far from kennels, the hounds had been out for thirteen hours before they were safe at home again.

Other more fashionable packs have had extraordinary runs in their day, over a flatter country, and where hounds were going hard and fast the whole of the time. The Duke of Richmond's run near Borough Bridge in 1738, which lasted from a quarter to eight in the morning until ten minutes to six in the evening, deserves to be a record. Other runs of almost equal duration are still talked about, but with a good country, fast hounds, and bustling the latter on by hard riding, to say nothing of the late hour of meets, hunting runs are not of such long duration as they were years ago. Mr. Vyner tells us of one with his hounds, in which the first eleven miles were covered over pretty rough ground in about fifty-three minutes, which must be taken as something quite extraordinary, when fences and one thing and another are taken in consideration. Such a run in the open cannot be placed side by side with the "trail"

hunt of Colonel Thornton and others, to which allusion is made later on.

In the days of our great-grandfathers hounds met at eight o'clock in the morning; now, excepting in cubbing time, the hour of noon has been reached ere huntsmen and hounds appear on the scene. We have a luxury in our modern sport—not to its improvement—that our ancestors could never have even dreamt of.

There is a tale of a Northumberland hound, descended from Colonel Thornton's Lounger, called the Conqueror, by reason of his excellence, that ran a fox single-handed for eighteen miles and killed him in the end. A doubtful story rather. Another hound of the gallant colonel's had been running riot in covert, and on making her way out, evidently on a strong scent, the whip gave her a cut with his crop, which unfortunately struck out her eye, which lay on the cheek. This did not stop the plucky bitch, for, with her nose to the ground and hackles up, she raced along the line, and in the end was first in at the fox's death, though in the latter part of the run the pack had got on terms with her. Thus she did not kill single handed, as the story is so often told.

In 1887, Comrade, a well known hound for "trail hunting," was with her owner, Mr. J. Irving, Forest

Hall, Westmorland, in an allotment adjoining his house. A fox jumped up in front of them, and although the going was rough and hilly, and three inches of snow lay on the ground, the bitch never lost sight, and after a grand course of more than a mile, pulled her quarry down in gallant style. A fine healthy fox, too, he was. This "trail hunting" is a favourite diversion in the north of England, and special strains of lightly-built foxhounds are used for the purpose. The line is generally run over an uneven country, and may extend for any distance between four and ten miles. Hounds are started from the same place, and the one coming in first, having completed the course, which was laid with fox's entrails, bedding, or some other strong scenting matter, wins the prize. A good hound will usually occupy less than three minutes in covering a mile. These hounds are almost or quite mute.

The match at Newmarket, about 1794, between Mr. Meynell and Mr. Smith Barry, was, perhaps, the first means taken to ascertain the pace of foxhounds. Blue Cap and Wanton, who came in first and second, ran the course of about four miles in a few seconds over eight minutes, but these hounds had been specially trained for the purpose. However, Colonel Thornton's celebrated hound Merkin, whose portrait appears in Daniel's "Rural Sports," ran a

heat of four miles, which she completed in seven and a half minutes. She was afterwards sold for four hogsheads of claret and a couple of her whelps when she was bred from.

It must not be forgotten that these hounds were specially trained for these trials of pace and endurance, that they ran over a country where the going was all in their favour, and that a strong "trail" was laid. There is no doubt that our modern hounds would come out with equal credit under similar conditions.

Foxhounds soon take to hunting game other than their legitimate quarry, more quickly taking up the change of scent than one would imagine. For years they have hunted the boar and stag in various countries all over the world, and the wolf likewise. Two years ago Mr. F. Lowe took a draft of hounds from various packs over to a friend in Russia. He says:

During our stay we had a trial with the foxhounds in an inclosed park, to see how they would tackle a wolf. On the first day the new hounds did not at once seem to understand it, but they soon owned the line, and we had a fairly good burst; and, if we had been so minded, could have killed Mr. Wolf. On the second day we had made up our minds to have blood if the foxhounds could break him up, which my host seemed to doubt. I gave them a cheer or two as they began to feather on the line, and away they went in grand style. Fred Payne, of the Fitzwilliam, would have been delighted with the advancement of Rambler's

education; and the Atherstone were likewise well represented. The music became a roar, and it was very quickly a case of from scent to view and "who-whoop!" The pulling to pieces was quite after the English view of the thing; though the quarry was perhaps a bit tougher, and they did not seem to care about making a repast of him.

In addition to his qualifications of speed and nose he has a peculiar homing faculty, developed to a remarkable extent. Hounds have been known to return to their kennels from remarkable distances. One draft that had been sent from the Holderness into Kent were discontented with their new quarters, and had arrived nearly home again before they were discovered. A Cumberland hound returned from Sussex to its old home, evidently preferring the mountains of its native county to the downs of the southern one.

There is an old huntsman in the English Lake district, Tommy Dobson by name, who runs the Eskdale pack. He is a bobbin turner by trade, but manages to keep a lot of excellent working hounds and terriers together, the farmers and some landowners in that wild district giving him so much a head for the foxes he kills. He hunts on foot, for no horse could follow where he goes. Repeatedly he has long runs; his hounds get lost for a time, but they usually arrive at their kennels the day following the hunt. Dobson is a keen old

sportsman, and may be the sole survivor in England of a class of men that can never be replaced. He kills twenty foxes or so in the season, much to the pleasure of the shepherds and farmers in this wildest part of our Lake district.

"Trencher fed" packs of hounds are not so numerous as once was the case, though such are still to be found. They get their name from the fact that they are not kept in kennels, but individual hounds have separate homes with the supporters of the hunt, and are regularly got together each morning a hunt is to take place. This is as a rule not much trouble, for, with a blast or two of the horn here and there hounds make their way to their master very much on the same principal that the "bugle call" rouses the soldier from the bed and draws him to the place of muster. Packs of this kind are, as a rule, not so extensive as our leading ones which repose in kennels dry and airy, and arranged on the most modern principles.

The largest packs of foxhounds are, as a rule, divided into dogs and bitches, each sex running separately and distinctly on different days. The "ladies," as they are mostly called, are said to be the smarter in the field, and to possess dash and casting powers in greater perfection than the "dogs." In some few of the big packs dogs and bitches are run

together, being matched according to size as nearly as possible. The dog hounds are, of course, the bigger of the two, and run from 23 to 24 inches at the shoulder, the bitches being from one to two inches or so below that standard. One of the smallest pure foxhounds that ever ran with hounds was the Blue Ransom, of the Pytchley, and said to be about 17½ inches, whilst the giant of the race, the Warwickshire Riddlesworth, was 27 inches. At the present time our largest packs are the Blackmoor Vale, with 80 couples of hounds; the Duke of Beaufort's, 75 couples; the Belvoir, 62 couples; whilst the Berkeley, Crawley and Horsham, Berks, Fitzwilliam, and Mr. Garth's have each 60 couples of running hounds in kennel. Other packs number anything between the nine couple of the Coniston to the 58½ couple of the Oakley.

For a hundred years or more, it has been been, and still remains, though some packs now discountenance it, the custom to "round" the ears of fox hounds, which is neither more nor less than shortening their aural appendages, to prevent the latter getting torn in covert, or in going through or over the fences. This is done at about four months old. Most hound puppies leave the kennels, after being taken from the dam, to be located, "walked" with the farmers and other friends of the hunt.

Here they are fed well and wax strong until the time comes round, usually late in the summer, for them to return to the kennels, to be properly entered with the cubs.

The occasion is utilized for a "show of the puppies." Prizes are awarded, silver tea and coffee pots and such like "useful pieces of furniture" dear to the farmer's wives and daughters. A pleasant day is spent; the Master gives a luncheon, and he "toasts" and is "toasted" in return.

The hounds each year drafted to make room for the puppies, are usually the perquisite of the huntsman and they may go to other kennels, or become squandered over distant parts of the universe, where they form a connecting link with "home." Or they may go into the hands of some dealer or other, who finds a ready market for them to an enterprising theatrical manager, who seeks to add to the truthfulness of some country scene, the increased attraction of a "scratch pack." During the past few years, foxhounds have repeatedly appeared on the stage in our leading theatres, where, to the sound of the horn of the "super," and the clash of the orchestra, or the strains of "John Peel," their reception has been such as any *debutante* might have envied. But a stage hound's life behind the scenes cannot be a happy one, nor are their exercising grounds through

the thronged streets adjoining our great thoroughfares, so healthy as a roll on the grass in the Pytchley pastures.

As to the "rounding" of the ears, Stonehenge writes with great judgment and knowledge. He believes it useful in

> Preventing canker either from foul blood or mechanical injury. . . . The sole use of an abnormally large ear, as far as I can see, is to aid the internal organ of hearing, and it is only found in hounds which depend upon co-operation for success—that is to say that hunt in packs. In this kind of hunting, the ear is required to ascertain what is given out by the tongues of the leading hounds, so as to enable the tail of the pack to come up; but whether or no "rounding" diminishes the sensitiveness of the organ of hearing, I am not prepared to say. It is, however, admitted by physiologists, that the external ear aids by the sense of hearing, and as this large folding ear is confined to hounds hunting in packs, which, as above remarked, depend upon hearing or co-operation, it is reasonable to suppose that the hound's large ear is given to him to aid this kind of hunting; and, if so, it is by no means clear that "rounding" is an unmixed good.

Foxhounds on the bench of ordinary dog shows are more a rarity than otherwise, though, whenever they do appear in such an odd position, always prove an attraction. In Yorkshire some attention was given to special exhibitions of foxhounds about twenty-five years ago, but they never appeared to quite take hold of the Tykes, and were allowed to lapse, the last of them being a large gathering that

took place on Knavesmire, in 1877. Following this came the establishment at Peterborough, that is held in June, and it has so grown under its excellent management, that it now must be recognised as one of the institutions of our land. At Peterborough Hound Show, Masters, Huntsmen, and Whips, meet as on a common threshold, and they talk of their prospects, admire the hounds, and criticise the awards in the most friendly spirit imaginable. A day at Peterborough is one that hunting men look forward to as a kind of connecting link between that time when hounds race on a burning scent, and when they are the pets of the household. Almost all the best foxhounds of the day are to be seen at Peterborough Show, and no prospective Master should miss the gathering; few of the present Masters do so.

Already I have mentioned the odd price for which Merkin was sold, but it seems rather strange that whilst comparatively useless dogs of a purely fancy breed occasionally bring from £500 to £1000 apiece, a whole pack of foxhounds may often be purchased for the latter sum, or even for less. There are hounds that a master would not sell at any price, but if he would there could scarcely be the demand for them at such enormous figures as a terrier, a sheep dog, or a St. Bernard will often com-

mand. Mr. Corbet bought that crack pack the North Warwickshire for 1500 guineas, but John Ward paid 2000 guineas for the same hounds when they came into his hands. Mr. Osbaldeston knew what he was about when, in 1806, he purchased the Burton for 800 guineas; but when the "Squire's" hounds came to be sold at Tattersall's in 1840, they realized 5219 guineas, which may be taken as the best on record for a pack of foxhounds. Against this may be set the modest item of 15 guineas which twenty-one couples of the Haydon hounds brought at auction in 1884. Ten couples of Mr. Osbaldeston's realised 2380 guineas. Then in 1845 Mr. Foljambe's hounds sold for 3600 guineas; Lord Donerail's, in 1859, for 1334 guineas; Mr. Drake's, 2632 guineas; and, in 1838, Ralph Lambton paid Lord Suffield 3000 guineas for his highly-bred hounds. These are, no doubt, the most unusual prices ever made for foxhounds. In 1867 the Wheatland hounds were sold at Tattersall's in different lots for £750, and yearly at Rugby drafts are sold by auction almost at any price, varying from a sovereign to 10*l.* a couple.

Stonehenge jocularly remarks: "Nose combined with speed and stoutness have always been considered as the essentials for the foxhound, but of late years, owing to enormous fields which have attended

our leading packs, and the forward riding displayed by them, another feature has been demanded, and 'the supply' in the 'grass countries' has been obtained in a remarkable manner. I allude to the gift peculiar to our best modern hounds of getting through a crowd of horses when accidentally 'slipped' by the pack. This faculty is developed to a very wonderful extent in all packs hunting the 'Shires,' varying, of course, slightly in each, and it is not less remarkably absent in certain packs otherwise equal to the Quorn and its neighbours, or even superior to them." I may say that through force of circumstances this valued gift of self-preservation has lately been exhibited by Her Majesty's and some other packs within easy railway distance of our great metropolis.

The following is from an article by Mr. G. S. Lowe, that appeared in the *Field* some time ago, and as it deals more fully with our present strain of foxhounds and their pedigrees (there is a foxhound stud book now) than I could, I have an excuse for its republication :

The casual observer in the hunting field might not be inclined to appreciate the laudations bestowed upon certain hounds in almost every pack. Hounds run very much in one form, and a huntsman of, say, forty years' experience might call up hounds to his memory to number in the aggregate several thousands, though in speaking of any exquisites he will refer to two or three only

that, according to his idea, were incomparable. The faults of even good foxhounds must be, therefore, numerous—far more so, I expect, than the casual observer could detect, as faultless hounds, it would appear, crop up in the smallest proportions in the lifetime of a huntsman. Mr. Osbaldeston was generally in a position to have the best of hounds only, as in the heyday of his career, at any rate, he had an immense pack, hunted his own hounds six days a week, and, in the style in which he rode over Leicestershire and other countries, it can be fairly asserted that he was never separated from them. It is said that he depended on his hounds with a flying fox, speaking very little to them, but observing all they did, and in strong gorse he went in with them himself, and could make them hunt like spaniels. With all this experience, though, Osbaldeston had one hound out of the many he had to do with, of which he would speak with exceptional regard up to the very time of his death. I remember it was told me that a friend met the veteran in a billiard room, years after he had given up hunting, and, the conversation drifting into matters of the chase, the squire got upon the line of Furrier, and there was no getting him off it. He expatiated on the merit of this hound as the best ever bred; and it must be remembered also that, when Osbaldeston bred hounds, he supported his opinion by breeding from this hound to such an extent that he could take a pack into the field made up entirely of Furrier's progeny.

Harry Ayris lived, I think, sixty years with the Fitzhardinge pack, and in an interview with him about fifteen years ago, when the old fellow was over eighty, I put the question straight to him as to the best hound he had ever seen. "Cromwell," was the ready reply, "and no man ever hunted another like him." It was difficult, then, to get Harry Ayris off the line of Cromwell; and it was no easier task to make the late John Walker believe that a better foxhound had ever been bred than Sir Watkin Wynn's Royal. Lord Henry Bentinck had several favourites, and, for the benefit of those after him, he left a written record, showing how these particular hounds excelled their fellows. This is in manu-

script still, I believe; but I am perfectly assured that the leading hound breeders of the day have seen it, and hence the great leaning of late years towards the pack that came originally from Lord Henry's benches. One might go considerably further back, to quote how Mr. Corbet is said to have spoilt his pack by excessive in-breeding to Trojan; and how Sir Thomas Mostyn committed the same mistake by appreciating the blood too much of a famous bitch called Lady. It is sufficient, however, to note that this sort of allegiance to certain hounds has had a marvellous effect on hound breeding, and that such hounds can be regarded as landmarks through a veritable maze of pedigrees ranging over half a century. No animal of any sort whatever has been bred to in the same persistency as can be traced to the Osbaldeston Furrier; he was the best hound of his day, in the opinion of an experienced authority; and that opinion was followed by such hound breeders as the late Mr Foljambe, the late Lord Henry Bentinck, and the late Mr. Parry, besides a host of others, not excepting those who attended to the well-being of the almost classical packs of Belvoir, Brocklesby, Fitzwilliam, and Badminton.

There have been hounds in considerable numbers that could boast of temporary reputations, but they have not secured lasting fame: and I should be inclined to limit what might be called the standard favourites to a dozen since the days of the Osbaldeston Furrier. Others may be inclined to differ from my selections, but they will catch my meaning if they will trace recent pedigrees to their sources, and will regard such hounds as are seen at the Peterborough show. It is seen that during years of breeding there has been no loss of size and bone, to begin with—no loss of quality, as shown in clean necks and shoulders, and general carriage; and, if looks can be taken for anything, there can have been no loss in pace, or in such qualities of shape that suggest power and stamina. Hunting men of various countries can decide whether foxhounds are not as good or better than they have ever been; but a very strong feature in maintaining the

qualities and characteristics of the foxhound has been the system of keeping several celebrated foxhounds in view when going in for high breeding. Mr. Parry, so long associated with the Puckeridge, had two hounds called Pilgrim and Rummager, both entered in 1840, and the latter was a great-grandson of the famous Furrier, whilst Pilgrim was descended from another celebrity known as the Belvoir Topper. With this couple of hounds Mr. Parry stamped his pack, as they were always kept in view, as it were, and before Mr. Parry left off hound-keeping his kennel had a very high reputation for blood. Of late years whole packs have been established from the Belvoir Senator, and others have been benefited in a similar degree, through holding to the Burton Dorimont line, the Drake Duster, the Wynnstay Royal, the Grove Furrier, or the Berkeley Castle Cromwell.

To come to the notable twelve that have been, and may still be, esteemed as "landmarks" of hound breeding, I should, of course, name the Osbaldeston Furrier, a Belvoir-bred hound, as he came in a draft from the ducal kennels, and was by their Saladin out of their Fallacy, and thence going back to Mr. Meynell's hounds of 1790. It has been stated that Furrier was not so much a perfect working hound as a hard runner, as he was inclined to be jealous and impatient on a cold scent; but he was the leading hound in every fast thing, and he never did wrong when holding that important post of honour. He was the sire of Ranter, and to that hound Mr. Foljambe was principally indebted for the Furrier blood, as his Herald and Harbinger, entered in 1835, were by Ranter. Herald was the sire of Wildair, sire of Wild Boy, sire of Modish, the dam of The Grove Guider. Harbinger and Herald appear several times in Barrister's pedigree, as, for instance, he was by Rambler, son of Roister, son of Captive, a daughter of Herald's; and the dam of Rambler again was Dorothy, her dam Dowager, by Songster, a son of Sybil by the Osbaldeston Ranter. The sire of Roister again was Render, son of Riot, by Ranter, and it is therefore not difficult to trace several lines of Furrier in the Grove Barrister, a hound well in the

memory of all breeders of the present day. The Fitzwilliam claim a line to Furrier, chiefly through Hardwick, a hound entered in the Milton kennels in 1843, by Mr. Drake's Hector out of Goldfinch, her dam Frenzy, by Fatal, son of Ferryman, son of Furrier. Hardwick was the sire of Handmaid, the dam of Hardwick of 1851, and the latter sire in turn of Hercules and Harbinger. There was another double Furrier cross in the Fitzwilliams, as their Hero and Hotspur were by the second Hardwick out of Ransom, by Mr. Foljambe's Roister.

Another famous line from Furrier, and through the same kennels as the above, is traced to the Burton Dorimont, a hound spoken of in Lord Henry Bentinck's diary as a thoroughly good foxhound. He was got by Roderick by Mr. Foljambe's Roister, named above as out of a Herald bitch. There was a double cross of this sort in Dorimont, as his dam Daffodil was out of Dairymaid by Driver, son of Harbinger, brother to Herald, and a third cross to Furrier might even be traced through the Belvoir Chaser, There is Dorimont blood in the Fitzwilliam kennel, as Dagmar and Daphne were by him; and their Selim of 1869 was out of Dagmar, and Selim is the sire of Balmy, Bloomer, Remedy, and others on the Milton benches, that have been bred from. Dorimont is largely represented also in the Oakley kennels, and, if I am not much mistaken, Sailor, a sire of note at the present time, from Lord Portsmouth's kennels, traces directly to him. At any rate, I know there was a good deal of the blood in Mr. Lane-Fox's kennel through a hound called Damper; and very few kennels, I expect, are without the strain. Dorimont was a branch from Furrier, but I should accept him as one of the corner stones of the stud book amongst my twelve selections.

The Drake Duster is another not to be forgotten by anyone who has ever thought of breeding hounds. He was entered in 1844 by the late Mr. Drake, so long associated with the Bicester, and he was got by Bachelor out of Destitute, the former running into Mr. Warde's sort, and the latter to the Belvoir. The last named famous kennel got many good returns of their own blood from

Duster, as Siren, the dam of Singer, was a daughter of his, and Singer was the sire of Senator. The most important line of the day is therefore due in a measure to the Drake Duster, as it can well be said that every kennel in England has gone in more or less for the Senator strain, and if there was anything to complain about, it was a fear that too much of it might be infused into some channels by way of in-breeding. However, the oldest huntsmen, the late Jack Morgan amongst others, have assured me that for dash and drive there has been nothing like them, and it was a characteristic with all hounds straining from the Belvoir Singer that they were veritable tyrants on the line of a sinking fox, and savages at a death. There was a hound in Lord Poltimore's called Woldsman, by Comus, out of a bitch nearly sister in blood to Siren, and he had to be coupled up as soon as possible at a kill, as he was not particular about mouthing another hound in his fury; and two sons of his, afterwards with the Bicester, and their descendants again, were just like him. Another great descendant from the Drake Duster was the Belvoir Guider, a son of the former, out of Gamesome, by General. To Guider must be credited the foundation of Lord Portsmouth's pack, as his Lincoln and a host of valuable bitches, bred from in due course, gave to the Eggesford pack its high reputation. Guider also left his mark with the Bramham Moor and Sir Watkin Wynn's; but his stock has not been so widely distributed as the Senator's. Senator was entered in 1862, and, like Duster, he was out of a bitch called Destitute, the dam also of Render, and she was by Sir Richard Sutton's Dryden, by Lord Henry Bentinck's Contest. Besides the field qualities noticed above as belonging to the Senators, all are very beautiful hounds that strain from that line. Very perfect necks and shoulders I have ascribed to them, and they are invariably full of quality, whilst their colours are, as a rule, perfection—the Belvoir tan, and hare-pied hue blended.

I spoke of Lord Henry Bentinck's Contest in the above remarks relating to the dam of Senator, and that relationship

alone might entitle him to be selected among the celebrated twelve to be considered as a pillar of the hound stud book. There is, however, something else to boast of to the memory of Contest, as he was the sire of Harry Ayris's favourite Cromwell, and the blood of the latter runs through the Badminton, the Croome particularly, through Lord Coventry's Rambler, and it is also largely represented in the Quorn, besides, as a matter of course, being mixed up in all the Berkeley Castle pedigrees. Cromwell was bred from at Berkeley Castle in the same sort of proportion as Furrier was used by Osbaldeston, as the entries during his lifetime show, and he was noted for getting excellent workers.

The beautiful colours of the Senators may not be due to Contest, as I think I have been told that he was a grey-pied hound, and Cromwell was that colour, as I have seen his skin. The goodness of Contest, however is explained in his noble owner's diary, as, if there was one particular favourite with Lord Henry more than another, it was Contest, considered by him to be the best of foxhounds in any part of a run; and, as in the case of Mr. Corbet's Trojan, Contest was an extraordinary wall and gate jumper. His blood can be traced to the three good-looking sisters that made up the two couples of the Warwickshire in the older bitch class at Peterborough—namely, Factious, Fair Maid, and Faultless, as Archibald, their sire, was out of a bitch by Lord Coventry's Rambler.

I have mentioned the Osbaldeston Furrier, the Grove Barrister, the Drake Duster, the Burton Dorimont, the Belvoir Guider, the Belvoir Senator, the Burton Contest, and the Berkeley Castle Cromwell in this article as the most celebrated foxhounds to be traced to throughout all records. This makes up eight out of my proposed party of twelve; and I have no hesitation in giving as additions the Burton Regulus and the Wynnstay Royal. It would be impossible to enlarge too much upon the good such hounds have done; and it would be impossible to say which of the two has influenced high breeding most. Royal is represented to

a large extent at Belvoir, Badminton, Mr. Garth's, the Bramham Moor, and numerous other kennels; whilst the Burton Regulus, besides adding much to the continuance of the high prestige belonging to Lord Henry Bentinck's pack, now mostly identified as the Blankney, is credited with a vast amount of merit contributed to the Badminton, the Berkeley Castle, the Fitzwilliam, the Quorn, and the present Burton pack. It now becomes a little difficult to name two more, and I think the honour might fall on the Badminton Flyer of 1839, as he gave the Fitzwilliam Feudal to the hound world; and the latter was the sire of Foreman, sire of Forester, sire of Furrier; and so we can finish up as we started with a Furrier, in the hound of that name, held in so much esteem by the late Hon George Fitzwilliam and George Carter, and the ancestor now of a very big tribe.

Stonehenge's points and description of the foxhound are as follows:

	Value.		Value.
Head	15	Elbows	5
Neck	5	Legs and feet	20
Shoulders	10	Colour and coat	5
Chest and back ribs ...	10	Stern	5
Back and loin.....	10	Symmetry	5
Hind quarters.....	10		
	60		40

Grand Total **100.**

1. The *head* (value 15) should be of full size, but by no means heavy. Brow pronounced, but not high or sharp. There must be good length and breadth, sufficient to give in the dog hound a girth in front of the ears of fully 16in. The nose should

be long (4½in.) and wide with open nostrils. Ears set on low and lying close to the cheek.

2. The *neck* (value 5) must be long and clean, without the slightest throatiness. It should taper nicely from the shoulders to the head, and the upper outline should be slightly convex.

3. The *shoulders* (value 10) should be long, and well clothed with muscle without being heavy, especially at the points. They must be well sloped, and the true arm between the front and the elbow must be long and muscular, but free from fat or lumber.

4. *Chest and back ribs* (value 10).—The chest should girth over 30in. in a 24in. hound, and the back ribs must be very deep.

5. The *back and loin* (value 10) must both be very muscular, running into each other without any contraction or "nipping" between them. The couples must be wide even to raggedness, and there should be the very slightest arch in the loin, so as to be scarely perceptible.

6. The *hind quarters* (value 10) or propellers are required to be very strong, and, as endurance is of even more consequence than speed, straight stifles are preferred to those much bent, as in the greyhound.

7. *Elbows* (value 5) set quite straight, and neither turned in nor out, are a *sine quâ non*. They must be

well let down by means of the long true arm above mentioned.

8. *Legs and feet* (value 20).—Every master of foxhounds insists on legs as straight as a post, and as strong; size of bone at the ankles and stifles being specially regarded as all important. The feet in all cases should be round and cat-like, with well developed knuckles, and strong pads and nails are of the utmost importance.

9. The *colour and coat* (value 5) are not regarded as very important, so long as the former is a "hound colour, and the latter is short, dense, hard, and glossy. Hound colours are black tan and white—black and white, and the various "pies" compounded of white and the colour of the hare and badger, or yellow, or tan In some old strains the blue mottle of the southern hound is still preserved.

10. The *stern* (value 5) is gently arched, carried gaily over the back, and slightly fringed with hair below. The end should taper to a point.

11. The *symmetry* (value 5) of the foxhound is considerable, and what is called "quality" is highly regarded by all good judges.

Although the preceding points of the foxhound have been generally acknowledged to be correct, they are seldom or never used when hounds are being judged either on the flags or in the ring at

Peterboro', or elsewhere. Such figures are not required by a hound judge, many of whom actually detest numerals when they are supposed to have any bearing upon that animal which they deem to be excellence itself, and far removed from any other variety of the dog known to the civilised world. The points are merely inserted here to give uniformity to the volume, and not that the author believes "points" are of use in judging a hound—or any other dog.

CHAPTER III.

THE STAGHOUND.

As this hound is neither more nor less than a fox-hound under another name and used for a different purpose I would rather he followed the latter than preceded him, though older associations and modern customs might entitle the staghound, or buckhound, to the premier position.

He has been used, or at any rate a somewhat similar animal to him has long been used, for stag-hunting, and we are told by historians, that, in the times of the Normans, villages were depopulated, and places for divine worship overthrown, in order that the nobles might have their parks in which to keep their deer. Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, was one of these, and according to Stowe, the first of its kind in England. So great a hold had hunting on those whose position allowed them to enjoy the pastime, that Edward III., when at war with France, took with his army a pack of sixty couple of stag-hounds; and in the reign of Elizabeth a pack was

kept at Simonsbath, Somersetshire, which hunted the red deer on the moor by the Exe, just as it is hunted to-day. But it is not my province here to enter into the history of each variety of dog in its place, and, so far as the staghound is concerned, I must be contented with thus briefly drawing attention to his ancient lineage.

Although some hundred years or so ago, there was every appearance of a speedy decline of stag hunting, owing to enclosures, high fencing, and similar sport to be obtained by other means, the retrograde movement was retarded. At the present time there are twelve packs of staghounds in England and four in Ireland, and with them many good runs are enjoyed, for the most part with the carted deer. Sport with the latter is pretty certain, as when one deer will not run as he or she ought to do, another is speedily provided, which it is hoped will take a straighter line, affording the hounds an opportunity for hunting; and, what in modern times is unfortunately considered of more importance, give horses a chance to gallop and exhibit their jumping powers at the fences, or their amiability in the lanes or on the roads.

As a loyal subject, I ought to make some mention here of Her Majesty's Staghounds or Buckhounds, kept by the State, which, kennelled at Ascot, hunt the country round about, where the overworked city

man seeks to regain his failing health by a gallop over a highly cultivated country. The royal pack, of forty couple, as at present constituted, may be said to date back to 1812, when the Prince Regent purchased the Goodwood foxhounds, as they were faster than the old-fashioned Southern hounds or talbots, the original constitution of the pack.

The older and slower hounds could with difficulty get away from the hard-riding cockney, who even at that time would be in amongst them with his hack, rather than in his proper position in their rear. The present hounds are well matched and most uniform, the dogs standing about 24 inches, and the "ladies" 22½ inches at the shoulder.

This may be taken as about the standard height of the staghound, though the Devon and Somerset, which hunt the wild deer on Exmoor and on the Quantock Hills, are much larger. The rough country of coombes and thick gorse necessitates as big a hound as can be obtained, so 25 to 26 inches is the standard, Mr. C. H. Bassett, the present Master, seeks to acquire, and he uses entirely dog hounds, drafts from various foxhound kennels. Not more than one bitch has been in this pack for a dozen years or so, and no puppies are bred by the hunt.

There is no doubt that the chase of the wild red

deer is most glorious sport, and the genuine lover of hunting, one who likes to see hounds work, and the cleverness of the horse, cannot do better than run down to Dulverton in the season, and see how the Devon and Somerset hounds can go. Long stern chases are common with them, and the forty minutes bursts in the Midlands after the fox, give place to three hours here behind a more noble quarry.

The pack consists of about thirty-four couples of hounds, a certain number of which are tufters. These are mostly old hounds, whose duty it is to find the deer, work out his line, and get him separated from the remainder of the herd; the full pack is then laid on, and so the hunt goes. The number of these tufters taken out depends mostly on the size and nature of the covert to be drawn, four couple of them being the usual complement. They are selected from the pack on duty for the day, because of their staunchness and eagerness in drawing, but especially for their voices or aptitude for giving tongue. A mute tufter is of course worse than useless, and, as a fact, "stag hounds" have a great tendency to run mute.

In autumn, say from the 12th of August to through October, the stag is hunted, and at the end of the latter month, hind hunting commences and

continues to April, and as far as a hundred stags and hinds have been killed in one season.

The present pack dates actually from 1827 (though antiquarians may identify it with that at Simonsbath two hundred and thirty years earlier), and, with slight exception, the Devon and Somerset have ever since shown the perfection of sport.

It may be interesting to note that the "old pack," which had been bred on Exmoor, was sold to go to Germany in 1811, and what has been produced from it, with no doubt suitable crosses, is hunting there still. Although the staghunting in the West is carried out on modern lines, its ancient history is not forgotten. The houses of the country families, of the Aclands, Fortescues, Fellowes, Bassets, and many others are hung with "heads" dated in the last century; the silver buttons with the hunt device on them are handed down from generation to generation, and those worn by the present master, whose grandfather hunted the hounds from 1780 to 1786, are over one hundred and twenty years old.

In some other parts of the country, stags and hinds are hunted indiscriminately (the Queen's prefer haviers, cut at four years old), the former being deprived of their antlers in order that they cannot

injure themselves or each other when in confinement, and both are specially fed and prepared for the chase. They are seldom hurt, either when being hunted or when taken, and the same animal will afford a run time after time.

I have always had an impression that our ordinary modern staghounds seldom go with the fire and dash other hounds do that are continually blooded, but this may be fancy or prejudice on my part. Every now and then some, perhaps well-meaning, persons, who are totally ignorant of sport, its usages and value, make uncalled for attacks upon stag hunting as usually conducted, and where the animal at the end of the run is saved. Their case always fails miserably, and what proof of cruelty they seek to force upon the public is unreliable and the product of a fertile imagination.

As I have already stated, the staghound, or buckhound, and the foxhound are identical, though the former is often enough confounded with the Scotch deerhound, a dissimilar animal in every way. The change of quarry does not appear to have made any difference in the character and disposition of the animal. The staghound is just as kindly as the foxhound, he can gallop as fast, and is said to possess as good a nose; in coat, colour and formation, they are identical—and hard, thick feet,

good legs, with strong loins are a *sine quá non* in both.

The staghound does not undergo the operation of having his ears rounded. He can boast of having taken part in extraordinary runs, one in Essex, continuing for seventy miles before the deer was killed. But this must have been nothing to one that is said to have occurred in Scotland and Cumberland, sometime in the year 1333 or 1334, when Edward Baliol, King of Scotland, went to hunt with Robert de Clifford, in his domain at Appleby and Brougham. It is said that a single hound chased a "hart of grease" (an eight year old stag) from near Penrith to Red Kirk, in Scotland, and back again, a distance that could not be less than eighty miles, even by the straightest road. The stag, in attempting to regain Whinfell Park, from whence it started, just managed to leap the wall, when it fell dead, the noble hound also falling lifeless, on the other side the fence.

This may be true or not, possibly not. Some early writers said the dog was a greyhound that took part in this wonderful run. Others have said it was a deerhound, but it is more likely to have been an ordinary hound of the country, answering to our present staghound, than anything else. The bones of the stag were, it is said, placed in a large oak tree

in Whinfell Park, and in the course of time became engrafted there.

> Thus spoke the king: "For equal praise
> This hand this monument shall raise!
> These antlers from this oak shall spread;
> And evermore shall here be said
> 'That Hercules killed Hart of Grease,
> And Hart of Grease killed Hercules.'"

Here they remained until 1648, when one of the branches was broken off, it was said, by certain soldiers in the Scottish army, at that time on the "war path." Ten years later the remainder was taken down by some mischievous persons at night (Lady Ann Clifford's diary). The ancient trunk of this tree was removed from where it stood, on the high road between Penrith and Appleby, during the present century.

A pretty story is told in connection with Her Majesty's buckhound Rummager. Some years ago, Frank Goodall, the then huntsman, met with a severe accident in the hunting field, and when assistance was to be rendered as he lay insensible on the ground, Rummager was by his master's side, and for a long time would allow no one to approach him. On the story being related to Her Majesty, it was ordered that poor old Rummager should become a pensioner, have extra quarters and comfort bestowed

on him, and so live out his natural life. His progeny remain in the kennels at Ascot, among the pillars of the present pack, which now has J. G. Harvey as Royal huntsman, and Lord Ribblesdale as "Master of the Royal Buckhounds." It seems rather strange that the mastership of the Royal Hounds, once hereditary, is now a "political" appointment, a Liberal holding the office when that party is in power and *vice versa*. The emolument connected therewith is £1500 per annum for the master, whilst the salary of the huntsman is only one-sixth of that sum.

In the above I have dealt more particularly with the Devon and Somerset Staghounds and Her Majesty's Buckhounds, they being considered the leading packs of the kind in this country. However, in Ireland we have the celebrated Ward Union, within easy distance of Dublin, the kennels being at Ashbourne, Co. Meath. These hunt three days a week. The Co. Down and the Roscommon likewise provide sport for the stag hunter in Ireland, and with the general surroundings of all these hounds no fault can be found.

In England Sir H. de Rothschild's may be mentioned as a strong pack numbering about thirty couples of hounds, and they are kennelled at Ascott, near Leighton, in Bedfordshire. The Enfield Chase

likewise have thirty couples of entered hounds, and so have the Surrey, whose country is round about Redhill, which, being pretty handy for the Londoner, usually produces larger meets of riding men than some of the neighbouring farmers like.

There is a small pack and a very old one that still hunts the New Forest; and a capital centre for the visitor to work from is Lyndhurst or Brockenhurst. Mr. F. Lovell, the master, is out two days a week with his fifteen couples of hounds, and many of the runs he gives, especially when such take place in the roughest country of the hunt, may remind the West Countryman of one of the hardest bursts with his favourite Devon and Somerset.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER IV.

THE HARRIER.

UNLESS some very considerable change takes place it is extremely likely that the harrier will not survive very many generations, at any rate in this country. His type has not been strictly defined for years, he has varied much in height, and has lately been crossed with the foxhound to such an extent, as to further endanger his extinction.

Years ago much hare hunting was done on foot, and hounds were bred for this purpose, to find their own hare by questing and hunting her through all her windings and ringings, with a care that the modern foxhound-harrier, with his dash and go, would not take pains to bestow. The latter is almost as fast and keen as the true foxhound; he has, like him, to be fleet enough to get out of the way of careless riders, and give a sharp and merry burst, rather than a careful hunting run. Most hounds now kill their hare in from half an hour to an hour, and no wonder that they can do so

when sometimes they have a turn with the fox, and perhaps oftener a chase with the "carted deer." The latter almost a necessity, because a mistaken and ill-judged legislation has caused hares to become very scarce in some districts, where a few years ago they were plentiful.

The harrier is quite as old a hound as any other. Caius calls him *Leverarius,* and the Book of St. Albans mentions the hare in the same list as a beast of chase as the fox, the deer, and the wild boar. Still, perhaps, pretty much as with most harriers to day, those of Dame Berners' time would be as much at home with the timorous hare as with the cunning fox or the fleeter red deer. Some modern writers have gone so far as to say that such a thing as a true harrier, one without any dash of foxhound blood in him, is not to be found. Beckford wrote of the harrier as a cross-bred hound, and his own were bred between the large slow hunting southern hound and the beagle. They were fast enough, had all the alacrity desirable, and would hunt the coldest scent. These attributes, added to their plodding perseverance, gave them a distinctive character, which, as already hinted, has well nigh departed. Still, all the harriers of sixty or seventy years ago were not so slow and careful as Beckford's undoubtedly were, for there were complaints that in

1825, the Kirkham, Lancashire, hounds were too fast for the hares they hunted. These, however, were big hounds, and not unlike the Penistone of to-day.

There are masters of harriers whose pride is still in the purity of their strains, though maybe, at some time or other, a point or two has been stretched for the infusion of new blood to maintain the size and standard required. Quite recently, letters have appeared in the *Field* on the matter, resulting from certain awards at dog shows. In one case, Mr. Allan Jefferys, Hythe, near Southampton, who owns a pack of black and tan harriers, which originally came from Sir Talbot Constable, complained that he was beaten by half bred foxhounds. Possibly this was so, but the winners were neater all round, and smarter than the black and tans, and thus more suitable for the show ring and the bench.

I confess myself rather disappointed with Mr. Jefferys' black and tans, as they were not so good in either feet or ribs as I expected to find them. Sir Talbot Constable began to breed such hounds as these about thirty-five years ago, by crossing beagles with St. Huberts, and then breeding in and in. This being so, Mr. Jefferys' may well find the puppies difficult to rear, as he says they are. He is endeavouring to perpetuate and harden the strain by crossing with smooth coated Welsh

harrier, black, or black and tan in colour. Mr. Jefferys claims for his hounds that they are one of the few packs of harriers without any admixture of foxhound blood; but what they lose in this respect they gain in another, for underneath them there lurks some of the bloodhound nature, and I am told they are excellent at carefully working out a cold scent, and that they take "rating" badly. However, they are interesting hounds, evidently about 18½ inches, and I believe that they received quite their due when in the ring at Peterborough in 1891, and at Bath the following year.

The Lancashire chaps have always been very partial to harriers, and the Holcombe have for long been a noted pack. They are required big and active in the district, and although they win prizes as harriers I consider that their height, 22 inches, should quite put them out of the category of hare hounds. The Rossendale Harriers are 22 inches, and claim to be pure harriers, but, like other Lancashire hounds, they are big ones. Mr. Sperling's 18-inch harriers, that hunt from Lamerton, near Tavistock, are more my idea of what a harrier should be. I remember, both at Peterborough and Exeter shows, seeing a few couple of lovely hounds from the Seavington Hunt, and shown by Mr Langdon. Rosebud and Rapture especially took my fancy—a

couple of lovely "hare pie" bitches, with character enough for anything, without any lumber about them, and minus the thick, heavy bone of the foxhound. I was told the master had twenty couple at home quite as good, his pack being all round about 19½ inches at the shoulder.

Mr. Webber had some pretty harriers at the same Exeter show, at which hounds formed certainly the feature. I need scarcely say that harriers like the Seavington caught the judge's eyes at Peterborough though they were hardly used that year when the Brookside beat them. The latter is one of the oldest harrier packs in the country, and it is said that it has hunted round about Rottingdean, near Brighton, for over 120 years. The present master, Mr. Steyning Beard, has a lot of hounds that it would be difficult to equal, as their success both in the field and in the ring will testify. There is in existence a painting of a pied hare that was killed on Lewes Downs by the Brookside harriers in 1771.

Two or three packs of hounds, running to not more than 18 inches, are to be found in Wales, whilst other excellent hounds in the list of the *Rural Almanac* are those of Colonel Ridehalgh, which hunt round about Bowness and Windermere, in the Lake district. Although, comparatively speaking, small, I can scarcely call them

pure harriers, though useful hounds that have to hunt and find for themselves, and surmount "the dark brow of the mighty Helvellyn" often enough when the meet lies near the foot of the mountain at Wythburn. Heavy hounds would no more do for hunting the hares here than they would do for killing foxes. And with those little hounds of Colonel Ridehalgh the runs are longer and actually more interesting than they usually are with bigger and, therefore, speedier hounds.

There are something like one hundred and ten packs of hounds hunting the hare in England, less than half a score in Scotland, and about twenty-five in Ireland. The standards of their height vary very much indeed, from the 23 inches of the Eden-bridge to the 16 inches of the Windermere pack already named. Some are called pure harriers that have little claim to the name, others bear a variety of appellations which signify "cross-bred." But the harrier in his purity is difficult to obtain; he should not exceed about 19 inches in height, and, as a rule, his skull is broader and thicker in proportion to the width of the muzzle than is the case with the foxhound. The harrier is oftener coarser in his coat than the foxhound, which may be ascribed to crossing with a rough Welsh hound that I believe is still to be found in some parts of the

principality. He has not, or ought not, to have, his ears rounded, and masters are not nearly so particular about their markings; in fact, blue-mottled harriers, with a dash of tan in them, were often enough to be found, and considered a favourite colour until the foxhound cross was introduced. We have seen that show judges will award prizes to black and tan harriers, but foxhounds of that colour would soon be sent to the right about.

Some of the most notable harrier packs are the Penistone, that are not "harriers" at all, old Southern hounds, said to be without foxhound or other cross for two hundred years. Mr. G. Race, of Biggleswade, has perhaps shown better sport with his harriers than anyone else for so many years, he at the time of writing having had them for over half a century; and what runs he has enjoyed himself and given to others during that period are now historical.

The Hon. C. Bampfylde had the Aldenham Piper and Valiant at Peterborough in 1891, when one of our best hound judges described the first named as about the best hound he ever saw, so straight in front, where they often fail, Belvoir tan marked and generally as "handsome as paint." This from a "foxhound man" who can as a rule see no hound so perfect as his own fancy, is praise indeed. Mr. J. S. Gibbon;

Mr. E. Barclay (the Boddington); the Edenbridge, Kent, about 120 years old; the Craven, hunting from Gargrave, in Yorkshire, and from which pack hounds were sent to America last century; the Fox Bush, the old pack was destroyed on account of rabies in 1880; the Holcombe, perhaps the oldest of all; Mr. Greenfell's, Taplow Court, Bucks, once belonging to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, are packs of harriers of undoubted excellence. As already stated, few of them are without the taint of "cross." Perhaps now that a harrier stud book has been published, and the first volume contains particulars of fifty-seven packs, the old pure blood will be sought after more than at present.

Generally speaking, the pure harrier should have distinguishing characteristics of his own. He ought to be from 16 inches to 19 inches, and no more, not thick and cumbersome in bone, deep in chest, and not so high on the legs in proportion to his height as the foxhound; ears unrounded and set on rather low, head thicker in the skull, and tapering more towards the muzzle than is the case with the foxhound; legs and feet as good as they can be had, but it is exceptional to find the former perfectly straight in front, and so the pure hounds are at a disadvantage when competing against the "absolutely straight" foxhound cross. Stern carried gaily, loins

as strong as possible with stifles well turned and muscular. The true harrier is not such a level topped hound as the foxhound. Colour anything you like of the hound shade, although the "blue pied," with a dash of tan about the head is handsomest; and one authority goes so far as to say that he never saw a bad hound of this colour; coat like a foxhound's, though sometimes it is longer. I have shown that some authorities admit black and tan, and who shall say that they are not correct?

I should apportion the points as follows:

	Value.		Value.
Head, ears, and character	20	Stern and hindquarters...	5
Neck	5	Legs and feet	15
Shoulders and chest.....	10	Size and symmetry	20
Back and loins	10	Coat and colour	15
	45		55

Grand Total 100.

It is not very often that classes for harriers are provided at our shows, though such are occasionally met with in addition to those alluded to elsewhere. Darlington, that lies in an excellent sporting district, in the autumn of each year holds a great exhibition of horses and dogs, has had some excellent groups of harriers, most of which were from packs hunted on foot. Many good runs these local hounds gave

in Westmorland and in Durham, finding their hares in a rough country, and without assistance, chasing and killing them, sometimes after a three hours' run.

So far as hunting the hare on foot is concerned, the most enjoyable part, to my mind, was when the meet took place at, say, eight o'clock in the morning. The scent or line of a hare was struck. This the hounds would slowly work out, and perhaps occupy the greater part of an hour in what was called the quest. Puss was in fact hunted fairly to her "form," or "seat," was then "so-hoed," and, after a ringing run, which all enjoyed, was killed in the open or on the road. Such hunting is seldom seen nowadays, when the meet is at 11 o'clock. The hare is roused from her "seat," and if the fast hounds, hurried on by excited horsemen, do not rush into her straight away, the run seldom lasts half-an-hour.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER V.

THE BEAGLE.

THIS is perhaps the only variety of hound that has profited by the institution of dog shows. He has done so because he is small and affectionate, pretty and docile, and in many respects admirably suited to be a "pet dog." Unfortunately, he is so true to his instincts of hunting the rabbit, and even the hare, as to prove rather a nuisance than otherwise in country places, where his bell-like, melodious voice will be continually heard in the coverts where the little hound is bustling the game about, much to the annoyance of the head keeper and his under strappers.

The beagle, said to be the "brach" of past generations, can boast of ancient lineage. Perhaps he was one of our original British dogs, but, as an old writer very truly observes, "his origin is lost in the mists of obscurity." However, he came from under his cloud about the time of good Queen Bess, who was said to be the fortunate possessor of a pack of

hounds so small that they could be carried in a lady's glove. Well, either the hounds must have been far smaller than the least of our toy terriers of to-day (which is extremely unlikely), or the glove of more capacious dimensions than a "fives Dent and Aldcroft" of the present time (which is extremely improbable), or the story an exaggeration (which is perhaps true). So there is only one conclusion to be arrived at, that these so-called "singing beagles" of our virgin queen were somewhat of a myth, or that one of them, and not the whole pack, could be ensconced in my lady's gauntlet.

Approaching more modern times, George IV. had a pack of beagles of which he was so fond that one of the best portraits of himself was taken in their company, His Royal Highness being surrounded by his merry little pack, and most typical hounds they are, full of character, and almost better than any we know at the present day. Colonel Thornton hunted with them on Brighton Downs, and expressed himself surprised with the pace they could go, and found a good hunter more useful than a pony in following them. But of late years beagles have been, and still are, mostly used when hunting is done on foot. A good beagle is slow but sure; he dwells on a cold line until he puzzles it out, and, throwing his musically smart voice, calls the remainder of his

fellows to him and away they dart, crawling through fences or topping stone walls, on the scent of poor puss. And if she is not clever her life is a short one. Beagles run very keenly, but are not so savage on the line as a foxhound, and we think Beckford's experience of them is not quite a usual one.

The author of "Thoughts on Hunting," having heard much of the excellence of a certain pack of beagles, sent his coachman to fetch them, in order that the diminutive hounds might be given a fair trial. The coachman was evidently not the proper person to have the charge of hounds, and, in bringing them along the road, they became terribly riotous, going for pigs, sheep, horses, cattle, birds, deer, and almost everything that moved in front of them. However, in due course the pack arrived at its destination with the loss of only one hound; and, on being asked what he thought of them, the coachman replied that they were the "best hounds he ever saw, for they would hunt everything." At the close of last century Colonel Hardy had a pack of beagles that were taken to the meet and to the kennels again, when possible, in a couple of hampers strapped across the back of a pony. It is said that these hounds, kennelled in a barn prior to hunting next day, were stolen there-

from; hampers, horse, and all disappearing, nor was their whereabouts ever discovered.

"Stonehenge," in "Dogs of the British Isles," gives an interesting account of Mr. Crane's rabbit beagles, a Dorsetshire pack, which all round has certainly never been excelled for excellence in the field, and beauty on the show bench. "Idstone," the writer of that article, says:—

He has seen them on a cold, bad scenting day work up a rabbit and run him in the most extraordinary manner, and although the nature of the ground compelled the pack to run almost in Indian file, and thus to carry a very narrow line of scent, if they threw it up it was but for a moment. Mr. Crane's standard is 9in., and every little hound is absolutely perfect. I saw but one hound at all differing from his companions, a little black-tanned one. This one on the flags we should have drafted, but when we saw him in his work we quite forgave him for being of a conspicuous colour. Giant was perhaps the very best of the pack, a black-white-and-tanned dog hound, always at work, and never wrong. He had a capital tongue, and plenty of it. A bitch, Lily, had the most beautiful points. She is nearly all white, as her name implies. Damper, Dutchman, Tyrant, are also all of them beautiful models. The measurement of Damper was: Height, 9in.; round the chest, 16in.; across the ears, 12in.; extreme length, 2ft. 4in.; eye to nose, $2\frac{1}{8}$in. Mr. Crane's standard is kept up with great difficulty. He has reduced the beagle to a minimum. Many of the mothers do not rear their offspring, and distemper carries them off in troops. Single specimens may occasionally be found excessively dwarfed and proportionately deformed. These hounds would perhaps be wanting in nose or intelligence if they could be produced in sufficient force to form a pack; but Mr. Crane's are all models

of symmetry and power, and are as accomplished and as steady as Lord Portsmouth's hounds. The Southover beagles are as small as it is possible to breed them (in sufficient numbers to form a pack) without losing symmetry, nose, intelligence, and strength.

The above was written nearly forty years ago, but Mr. Crane keeps his beagles now in 1892, just as he did when "Idstone" wrote so charmingly of them. Mr. Crane informs me that latterly he has had great losses in his puppies, especially about two years ago. Then distemper, which had not been near the kennel for a long time, broke out, and four couples of old hounds and three couples of young ones succumbed to the epidemic. The survivors were running this season, and gave excellent sport amongst the rabbits, which they hunt zealously, but they have scarcely the pace to run down a hare. They were often successful on the benches at Birmingham, one of the few shows where classes for them have always been provided. Now beagles are acknowledged at Peterborough, where, during the past year or two, some pretty examples have taken away the prizes.

Mr. G. H. Nutt, at Pulborough, Sussex, has an excellent pack of these little hounds, with which he wins many prizes. In work, he uses them in the place of spaniels, for beating the thick coverts, and driving "bunny" to the gun. Rather a risky enterprise for the hounds, with careless shooters about, but pretty

sport is afforded, and the music of the hound will always tell you in which direction the rabbit is coming. Fifteen years ago, Mr. Nutt had his pack at one of the Kennel Club's Shows at the Alexandra Palace, and much to the delight of the visitors, ran a trail with them amongst the shrubs of the Palace grounds, the late Mr. Edward Sandall taking an active part therein.

From the earliest times there have been at least three varieties of the beagle, ordinary smooth coated, rough or wire haired, and others black and tan in colour. Richardson, in 1851, writes of a Kerry beagle, which, he says, is "a fine, tall, dashing hound, averaging twenty-six inches in height, and occasionally, individual dogs attain to twenty-eight inches. He has deep chops, broad, pendulous ears, and when highly bred is hardly to be distinguished from an indifferent bloodhound." The same author further says they are used to hunt the deer, and that there are two packs in the neighbourhood of Killarney.

I have made enquiries in various parts of Ireland, as to the survival of the Kerry beagle and his present whereabouts. One of the packs alluded to by Richardson—that of Mr. Herbert, at Muckross—was discontinued as long ago as 1847. These hounds were twenty-six inches in height, most of them black and tan in colour, some of them all tan. The

other pack alluded to by the same authority, that of Mr. John O'Connell, at Grenagh, Killarney, were dispersed at the same time, which was during the distressful period of the great famine, when many of the Irish gentry, almost ruined, were compelled, under the Encumbered Estates Act, to sell their family domains at an enormous sacrifice. I could name more than one instance where a valuable estate was sold for five years purchase! The late Mr. O'Connell's hounds, were likewise black and tan. A few couples of these hounds were taken by Mr. Maurice O'Connell's nephew to Mr. John O'Connell, who kept them at Lake View, increasing his pack to about twenty couples. In 1868 he, however, handed them over to Mr. Clement Ryan, of Emly, co. Tipperary, who now preserves the only pack of Kerry beagles in the kingdom—not many years ago they were the most popular hounds in the south of Ireland.

At Darrinane a pack was kept for many generations; the late Mr. Buller, of Waterville, and Mr. Chute, of Chute Hall, all in County Kerry, had small lots of hounds. I have had kindly forwarded to me a description of this hound as he ought to be, and it was compiled by Mr. McNamara, of Killarney, who has made a special study of the variety.

"*Head.*—Moderately long broad skull, oval from

eyes to poll, about same length from nasal indenture between eyes to point of nose—should slope or slightly arch from eyes to point of nose. Forehead low, eye-brows strong and raised somewhat, cheeks not full. Eyes large, bright, and intelligent, varying in colour from bright yellow to deep buff, and deeper brownish yellow. Muzzle long, slightly arched round, and full under. Nose fine in texture, not square, but slightly tapering. Nostrils large. Upper lips hanging, and fuller towards the corner of the mouth. Teeth level, of elegant form, and strong.

"*Ears.*—Large, pendulous, falling below the neck, and set on low on the side of the head.

"*Body.*—Muscular, fairly thick set, moderate length, strong, well set on legs.

"*Neck.*—Slightly arched, thick, nearly level with the back of the skull at the point of joining. Skin full in front, and dewlap developed.

"*Chest.*—Deep, not broad underneath. Shoulders strong and broad across the back, which is moderate in length, and strong.

"*Loins.*—Broad and muscular, and slightly arched. Thighs thick and slightly curved.

"*Tail.*—Long and evenly furnished with hair, thickest at the root, and carried curved upwards from the loins.

"*Legs.*—With plenty of bone and muscle, short, and strong; feet round and close.

"*Coat.*—Hard, close, and smooth.

"*Colour.*—Black and tan; blue mottled and tan; black, tan, and white; tan and white.

"*Height.*—22 inches, more or less, which should depend upon the depth of the body."

I have dwelt thus long on this hound because, so far as I am aware, its description has not hitherto been published, and because there is a likelihood of this fine old variety becoming as extinct as the dodo, and, perhaps, it is in danger of being forgotten altogether.

Mr. Ryan writes me that his hounds average about 24 inches, are smooth coated, black and tan, with "very long ears, and hanging jowls, but have no strain of the bloodhound in them. They are remarkable for their tongue, which is rich and wonderfully sweet. Their noses are very keen, and in work they are true and persevering. Not so fast as the foxhound, they possess a considerable turn of speed, are docile, and take to hunting at once."

These beagles at Emly were formerly restricted to hare hunting, but with the increasing scarcity of that quarry the master has had to fall back upon deer, and he and their followers have been very much pleased with the sport they have afforded.

Mr. Macnamara further says that their cry in the chase is full, sonorous, and musical; when hunting the head is thrown upwards frequently, and when this is so they are in full cry. When on trail their note is of prolonged sweetness.

I take it that these "beagles" are pretty much of the same type, excepting in colour, as the purest of our English harriers, and, although their size is against their identity with the common beagles, as they are known as such, it is better to allude to these Kerry hounds under this head than another.

More attention has been given to the beagle in the South of England than elsewhere, and the county of Sussex has usually been noted for them. Indeed, the handsome blue mottled specimens were at one time known as Sussex beagles; and I fancy that, from this county, first sprang the variety with a wire-haired coat, not unlike a miniature otter hound in appearance. Mr. H. P. Cambridge, of Bloxworth, is alluded to by "Stonehenge" as having a pack of 13-inch beagles for hunting the furze country in his locality, in which there were some rough hounds. One of the best of these, black, tan, and white, originally came from near Cranbourne. About twenty-five years ago I saw a peculiar little beagle, some 12 inches in height, with extraordinarily long ears, characteristic face,

but rather long in the body. Merry was wire-haired and sandy in colour, not unlike a pale coloured Irish terrier. She was in the north of England, but where she came from I could never make out. Her first public appearance was on the bench, where she was shown by her owner, a sporting dealer in oil cake, who had been a great wrestler in his day. Mr. W. Lort, the judge, was so taken with the little hound that he gave her first prize in the "variety class." She had a lovely voice, a thorough hound, but quite unlike any beagle I ever saw before or since.

Perhaps the best of all rabbit beagles was the blue-mottled "Blue Belle," shown by Mrs. Reginald Mayhew about four years ago, and now in America. Here was about as perfect a little creature as could be imagined, and even the most hypercritical could only say she was a little weak in face. Then she had such character, the best of legs and feet, so difficult to obtain in perfection on either beagle or harrier, a perfect body, loins, back, stern, and ears all to correspond. Blue Belle was purchased at one of the Sussex exhibitions when a puppy for about thirty shillings.

At Brighton and Tunbridge Wells shows the best classes have been seen of both the rough and smooth varieties; but, as a rule, the more diminutive

hounds—say those of about ten inches—have not had much chance of competing successfully with others three or four inches higher; still the little ones have a quaintness of beauty that is not seen in any other dog, and, as already stated, they are suitable as companions, excepting when they are afforded an opportunity of going out "rabbiting" on their own account.

This year, in 1892, a joint stud book of packs of beagles has been published, it forming part of the one for harriers already alluded to. The first volume contains the names of a dozen packs only (there are over double that number in existence), which are supposed to be a foundation stock, but I am afraid that some of the entries are not so pure as many of our show hounds, which are not included; nor are Mr. Crane's, Mr. Nutt's, and Mr. Ryan's, the latter the Kerry beagles already alluded to. To form a good and reliable stud book, the editors ought to see that their second volume remedies, as far as possible, the omissions alluded to.

It is common knowledge that masters of hounds abominate dog shows; still when we find the very best of a variety to be found oftener on the bench than in the field, animosity against exhibitions must be sunk. Most of the packs entered in the stud

book are big, rather large hounds, many from thirteen to sixteen inches, and the oldest pack is the Royal Rock, hunting from near Birkenhead, Cheshire, established in 1845 by Colonel Anstruther Thompson, who brought them out of Essex. Sir Marteine Lloyd, with the kennel at Llandyssil, South Wales, has had the hounds in his family since 1846, and they have been carefully bred from true strains. The Cheshire Beagle Hunt Club have some hounds good both in appearance and work, and their Graceful and Music won leading honours at Peterborough in 1891. Christ Church, Oxford, has beagles of its own, originally established in 1874, but the pack experienced vicissitudes, especially in 1886, when, dumb madness breaking out, all the hounds were destroyed. The then Master, Mr. F. B. Craven, soon got twelve couples of merry little hounds together, and the establishment is now as strong as ever. The Stockton pack, with Mr. T. H. Faber, Master, includes hounds up to sixteen inches, some of them very typical specimens, and evidently pure beagles, but others appear to come pretty nearly the modern harrier type. Near London, at Surbiton, Mr. H. V. Walsh masters the pack that Mr. R. W. Cobb got together in 1882. Since that time, when it hunted only on a Saturday, it has been considerably strengthened by the present Master,

who purchased the pick of Mr. Dubourg's pack, and others from the Epsom and Ewell Hunts, since given up.

In appearance the beagle is a diminutive harrier, with equally long and pendulous ears, not so level in back as a foxhound, but in other particulars much like him. However, the best beagle colour is certainly the "blue mottled," already mentioned, but in addition the ordinary hound markings are good, and black and tans, not of the Kerry size, are repeatedly met with, and are quite admissible. The smooth coated hounds are usually understood to be most desirable, but the rough, or wired haired hounds are admired by many persons, and in all respects are equally as good as the others. In hunting, the beagle is a merry, keen, hard worker, he can make casts for himself, and possesses a peculiarly bright, clear, and silvery voice. The smaller, or rabbit beagles, are especially sweet in their cry, and no doubt on this account obtained the name of "singing beagles," by which title they were known hundreds of years ago. In height there is much variety, those used for rabbits varying from nine inches, the standard of Mr. Crane's, at Southover, up to say twelve inches, the height that Mr. Nutt favours at Pulborough.

The pack belonging to the latter is, however,

mostly used for beating the thick coverts when rabbit shooting. Others vary from twelve to sixteen inches, but when we reach the latter height, there is a near approach to the harrier, and so to the fox-hound; the cross with the latter having been made with the idea of improving the legs and feet of the smaller hound, a change of blood that naturally has a tendency to do away with type.

The following is the scale of points I should give to the beagle :—

	Value.		Value.
General appearance	20	Head and ears	15
Loins, back, and stern ...	20	Legs and feet.....	20
Chest	10	Coat and colour	15
	50		50

Grand Total 100.

From what has been written it will be seen that the beagle, in size and character, varies more than any other of our hounds, and may be found in height from about nine inches to sixteen inches. In this scale I do not include the Kerry Beagle, which runs to the size of a foxhound, and which, instead of hunting the rabbit or the hare, finds nobler game in the chase of the stag, which we are told he does most successfully.

The real and proper work of the beagle is to hunt hares and even rabbits, and such charming little

hounds as some of those already alluded to, do this work wonderfully well. Any man of ordinary pedestrian powers can follow them from start to finish, for a rabbit does not as a rule live long before hounds—and, as all know, will go to ground at the earliest opportunity. The hare, too, fails to go away at such a break neck pace when the slower beagle is plodding after her, as she succeeds in doing when bullied and flustered by the dashing harrier with a lot of foxhound blood in him.

As a hound the beagle deserves to be cultivated, and, from the list, containing twenty-six packs, that appears in the "Rural Almanac," its popularity is certainly not on the wane where hunting is concerned any more than it is in the show ring.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER VI.

THE OTTER HOUND.

THERE is no finer type of the canine race in this country than the otter hound. His hardy, characteristic expression, shaggy coat, and rough wear and tear appearance, have always reminded me of that ancient British warrior so often depicted in our boyish story books, but who, perhaps, with his coat of skins, his shield, and hirsute face, was the invention of the artist rather than the actual inhabitant of our island.

It has been said that the otter hound is a cross between the Welsh harrier, the southern hound, and the terrier. Perhaps he may be so, but more likely not, for a good well-grown specimen has more coat than any ordinary terrier or the rough Welsh hound, and he is bigger than either, and of the southern hound likewise. My own opinion is that he has been crossed with the blood-hound at some not very remote date. The black and tan colour often appears in some strains, and

his voice in many cases resembles the full luscious tones of the bloodhound more than the keener ring of the foxhound. Some twenty years or so ago, Mr. J. C. Carrick, of Carlisle, was desirous of getting a new cross into his hounds, and, with that intention, obtained a hound—a southern hound it was called—from the Western States of America. No pedigree could be obtained, but it was a particularly handsome animal, and more like the picture of the southern hound in Youatt's book on the dog than anything I ever saw. Mr. Carrick was afraid of the fresh blood, so the Virginian importation did good duty on the show bench in the variety classes instead of demoralising the blood of hounds that was quite as pure as that of any other variety of the dog.

I forget who recommended a cross between a bulldog, an Irish water spaniel, and a mastiff, as the most likely way to produce otter hounds. Certainly an ingenious idea, and worthy of the writer, who thus easily got out of a difficulty which more learned men than he had failed to solve. We have the otter hound, let that suffice, and let his valued strain be perpetuated, and the popular masters of our packs long continue to give the best of all sport to those somewhat impecunious individuals who are not provided with the means to keep a hunter

or two to gallop after foxhounds. Forty or fifty years ago otter hunting appeared to be on the wane. Perhaps the rising generation of sportsmen of that era became discontented with the nets and spears that were commonly used to facilitate the kill. Now these cruel appliances are all abolished, and the only resting-place fit to contain them is the lumber room or the museum of some country town. Hounds are so bred that they can, with a minimum amount of assistance, kill their otter unaided, and specially excel in their work during the early part of the hunt, if they are but let alone.

Throw off on the river's brink, and hounds will soon hit the line of an otter, if one has been about any time within three or four hours before, or may be they will speak to scent even older than that. The olfactory organs possessed by the otter hound have to me always seemed something extraordinary. The cold, damp stones by the water's edge, or a bunch or clump of grass adjoining, are not the places where scent would lie well. Still there is the fact; a hound will swim off to a rock in mid-stream, put his nose to the ground, sniff about a little, and if the otter has been at that spot, even for only half a minute, that hound will throw up his head and, in a solo so sweet to the ears of a hunter, let all know that he is on the line.

And it was "Ragman" who never told a lie—can I call him a canine George Washington without disparagement to America's great president? I have seen foxhounds well entered to the otter, but the rough hounds were always first to own a stale drag. The latter are so much more staid and steady when past their puppyhood; know their work so well, appear to enjoy it too, and take to hunting their favoured game at quite an early age.

It is told of the Rev. John Russell, the great Devonshire sportsman, that, desirous of having a pack of hounds to hunt the otter, he endeavoured to make one. He said he followed the rivers for two seasons, during which he walked upwards of three thousand miles, and never found an otter, although he says "he must have passed scores, and he might as well have searched for a moose deer." No doubt; but Russell had foxhounds that had been entered to fox. Now, with even a lot of otterhound puppies quite unentered, he would not have had such long and fruitless journeys; they would have soon hunted something, and if now and then they had run riot on a water rat, a moor hen, or a rabbit, they would have struck the scent of an otter before very long—*i.e.*, if such game were plentiful in the district.

My early experience of otter hunting was much sooner consummated than that of the Devonshire

sportsman. We had an otter hound puppy, quite unentered, an old bitch, dam to the puppy, and a few terriers. The second time out we struck a strong scent by the edge of a lovely stream in our north country. Old Rally, who, later on, very often failed to speak, even on a strong scent, now gave tongue freely; her young son put his nose to the ground, threw up his head, and yelled every now and then, and quite as often fell head over heels into the water; the terriers yelped and barked, and evidently thought they were in for a big battue at rats.

The young hound settled down and swam across the pool. Higher, Rally marked under a tree root. An angler hard by prodded his landing-net handle down into the ground; all of us jumped upon the surface, and quietly there dived out a huge otter! And he made his way down stream. Then we had him in a long pool, about twenty yards wide, nowhere more than five feet deep, no strong hovers on either side the bank; but below us was dangerous ground. So a shallow was guarded by two of us, with our breeches rolled up and long sticks in our hands.

Well, we hunted our otter up and down that pool for two hours. He was given no rest; he came quietly to a corner where the water was shallow; Rally and her big puppy were there. They saw the round brown head and bead-like eyes,

and furiously rushed on to their game. What a row! What a fight! The terriers were there; all of us were there. Torn jackets and torn coats. It was a wonder that during the *melée* our otter did not escape and we ourselves be the bitten ones. How it all came about none of us will know, but a quarter of an hour later, three lads, a man, and a fisherman, were sitting in a green meadow, where wild hyacinths made the hedgerows blue and the clover was imparting fragrance to the air. They were sitting there with their hounds and their terriers, and whilst the scratch pack rolled and dried themselves amongst the earlier summer flowers, we were gazing in astonishment at an otter weighing 25½lb.—one that we had killed ourselves with the aid of our two hounds and terriers. We had walked three miles to perform this feat, and, need I say, that in less than two years from that time that locality had as good a pack of otter hounds as man need desire. Our Mentor of the day was our huntsman.

Notwithstanding this experience of my own, almost all old hunters say that many years careful work are required to make a pack of otter hounds. Squire Lomax, of Clitheroe, some quarter of a century ago, had the misfortune to lose his entire pack through an attack of dumb madness. Now his were perhaps the most accomplished lot of

otter hounds any man ever possessed. Each hound was perfect in itself, and the pack might have found and killed an otter without the slightest assistance from their esteemed master, who had taken years to bring them to that state of perfection. "You will soon get another pack together, Mr. Lomax," said a friend. "No," was the reply, "my old hounds took me the best part of a lifetime to obtain, and should I recommence again, I should be an old man and past hunting, before I got another lot to my liking." Mr. Lomax for years hunted the Ribble, Lune, and other big rivers in the north.

Mr. Gallon, of Bishop Auckland, who met his death whilst otter hunting in Scotland, was another great authority on this hound, and his opinion was pretty much the same as that of Mr. Lomax. But good sport can be had without having hounds quite so perfect as those mentioned.

I am, however, getting a little in advance of my text, and something must be said of the earlier days of the otter hound. King John is said to have had a pack, of which he was very fond. Although thus early otter hunting was considered royal sport, the otter was only placed in the third class of the beasts of the chase, ranking with the badger and the wild cat—even the timid hare and the marten taking precedence. However, that he was highly valued, even

in those days, for the amusement afforded, may be inferred from the fact that Edward II. (time 1307), had as part of his household, a huntsman and subordinates, to look after his otter hounds. Sometimes the King's otter hunter resided in the hall, and was served there; on other occasions he had his own residence and lived as he liked. Anyhow, he had "twelve otter dogges" in his care, and in addition a couple of greyhounds. Then there were "two boys" to look after the hounds and feed them. The master of the otter hounds was, as the times went, fairly well rewarded for his duties, he receiving in addition to "a robe in cloth yearly, or a mark in money"—the latter 13*s.* 4*d.*—and an extra allowance of four shillings and eightpence for shoes, twopence per day wages. Each of the so-called "boys" was remunerated at the rate of three halfpence per day. The latter did not appear to have any perquisites (tips are a more modern institution), but they would doubtless reside in the house or at the kennels.

It would have been interesting to know as a certainty the class of hounds the above were, but there is little doubt they were hard in coat and rough in hair, much as they are at the present day. Sometime later the otter hound appeared to become less fashionable. He was kept by the "tinkers,"

and similar class of roving individuals, on the northern borders. There were a few in Wales. Early in the present century they were not uncommon in the south of Scotland, in Devonshire and the west, and in the north of England. Since, the otter hound has become a greater favourite, and at the present time, during the season which may be said to last from the middle of April to the end of September, some eighteen to twenty well regulated packs hunt the otter in various parts of the kingdom.

In a few cases, usually in Devonshire, foxhounds are almost entirely used; elsewhere the packs are composed of the rough-haired otter hound, with occasionally a couple or so of foxhounds to assist them. Still, each variety of the hound should stick to that game for which nature intended him, the foxhound to the fox, the harrier to the hare, the otter hound to the otter. The latter is mostly followed on foot, and the foxhound is too quick and fast, though many like him because of his dash. In the staidness and care of the otter hound lie his character, and he will give better sport in most cases at his own game than any other hound.

Some of the most noted packs of the present day are those of the late Hon. Geoffrey Hill, who died in 1891, but whose hounds, known as the Hawkstone, ultimately passed into the hands of Mr. R.

Carnaby Forster. Mr. Hill, who hunted from Maesllwch Castle, in Radnorshire, had the pack from his brother, Lord Hill, in 1869, and from that time to the day of his death had improved it immensely. There were twenty-five couple in the kennels, all good-looking, handsome, rough hounds, perhaps not so perfect in this work as those of Mr. Lomax, but in "sortiness" they have never been equalled. They were well cared for; the members of the hunt had a handsome costume, and hounds were taken to and fro in a van made for the purpose. From 1870 to 1890 these hounds, known as the Hawkstone pack, killed 704 otters, no fewer than sixty-two being accounted for in one season, the best on record, that of 1881.

But if a pack kills from a dozen to two dozen otters during the four or five months they hunt, a bad record is not made, for sometimes when the waters are in flood, or the hay crop remains uncut, hounds may not be out for a week, or even a longer interval may intervene between one meet and another.

The Carlisle hounds are another noted lot, and, with a slight interval, during which Mr. James Steel was the master, that position has been occupied by Mr. J. C. Carrick for over a quarter of a century. For some time Mr. Carrick's hounds

were as invincible on the show bench as by the river. Then "the Kendal" sprang up in the sister county, and, with the late Mr. Wilson of Dallam Tower as master, Troughton as huntsman, and having extraordinary success in breeding young hounds, they took all before them in the ring. Perhaps some of their excellence might arise from the fact that the Hon. Geoffrey Hill and Mr. Wilson, and later Mr. Tattersall, interchanged services of their best stallion hounds.

The Kendal Ragman was particularly successful at stud—no one ever had a better hound at work, and he lasted eight seasons. He was a black and tan, rather short in coat to be quite right, but what there was had an extraordinary texture, so hard and close and crisp that I have seen the water standing in drops thereon quite unable to penetrate the dense covering. This hound it was I saw take the head of an otter right in its jaws as the game came up for a breather close to the bank upon which Ragman was standing. The otter was very nearly finished outright; it would have quite killed any other animal, for the fangs of the hound had gone deeply through the bone of the skull, perhaps just missing what might have been a vital part. These Kendal hounds were sold for something over £200 to Mr. Carnaby Forster, of Tarporley, Cheshire, at the commencement of

1891, who incorporated them with the Hawkstone already alluded to. This was, perhaps, the cheapest pack of hounds ever sold; there were about twelve couples, with some terriers, and I am pretty certain that, placed publicly in the market, £1000 would have been obtained for the lot.

Another old master of otter hounds was Mr. John Benson, of Cockermouth; but two years ago his hounds were discontinued, and in their place came a subscription pack, of which Mr. Harry Clift, who has served a very long apprenticeship to the sport, is at the head. Mr. Collier, down Devonshire way, has hunted the otter for over fifty years, and Mr. Cheriton and Mr. Calmady are in the west likewise, but they appear to prefer the dash and go of the fox-hound to the sedateness and care of the pure variety. Mr. W. C. Yates has had some good hounds in his time. I once saw the latter—Mr. T. Wilkinson, of Neasham Abbey, hunting the pack during an off season, when he had not one of his own—kill three otters in one day, in Lancashire. Mr Yates now mostly hunts in Ireland. But the Squire of Neasham was soon again surrounded by his favourite hounds, and still hunts in the neighbourhood of Durham, and goes into Northumberland occasionally. In Scotland Captain Clarke Kennedy, some years ago, kept otter hounds, and so did the Duke of Athol and others.

Of more recently established packs the Dumfriesshire; Mr. R. W. Buckley's (Wales), The Hon. C. H. Wynne's, Captain Dawson's (Otley, Yorks) and Mr. Cloete's may be specially mentioned, and there are other otter hounds hunting in Devonshire, Somersetshire, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Carmarthenshire, Merionethshire, Brecknockshire, in county Wexford, and near Dublin.

The dog otter hound should stand about 26 inches at shoulder, the bitch about 24 inches. The best and most favourite colours are the blue and white, though not so much mottled as the beagle, and a hard looking pepper and salt colour. Yellow and fawn, and yellow or fawn and white hounds are likewise good old colours, and, as I have said, black and tan is not amiss, with, maybe, white on the breast and feet, but black tan and white in patches is not nice on an otter hound, however gaudy it may be on others of the race. I have also seen one or two almost white hounds, but never one of the latter with the correct coat, which should be hard and crisp and close, as water and weather resisting as possible, and not too long. Often the long coats incline to an indication of silkiness in texture, which, however, is preferable to a soft, woolly jacket. In build an otter hound should be like a foxhound, strong, level, and well put together, stern carried

gaily, feet close and particularly hard, and this is even more desirable than in a foxhound, as being one minute in the water and another on the hard rocks and stones tries the pads very much. A big foot is likely to increase the pace in swimming. The head must be long, jaws strong and powerful, eyes giving a certain sedate and intellectual appearance; they sometimes show the haw, which is no defect. Ears long and pendulous, close set, in order that the water may be kept out of the external orifices. However, what an otter hound ought to be the illustration preceding this article will best inform the reader searching after information. A nice weight for a dog hound is 65lb., and for a bitch 55lb.

Points.

	Value.		Value.
Coat	20	Head and ears	20
Legs and feet	20	Back and loins	10
Hind quarters and stern	10	Shoulders	5
Neck and chest	10	Symmetry and colour	5
	60		40

Grand Total 100.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER VII.

THE DEERHOUND.

FAILING any further information on the subject than we at present possess, it will always be a moot point whether the hounds used for Queen Elizabeth's delectation at Cowdray Park, in 1595, that "pulled down sixteen bucks in a laund," were the ordinary greyhounds or the Scottish deerhounds. The latter were likely enough to be fashionable animals at the close of the sixteenth century, for they had already been described by Boece, in his History of Scotland, published in 1526; and, thirty-four years later, Gesner, in his "General History of Quadrupeds," gives an illustration of three Scottish dogs, one of them answering to our modern deerhound in general appearance. The drawing for this was supplied by Henry St. Clair, Dean of Glasgow at that time, whose family kept the breed for very many years, an interesting story in connection therewith being told on another page.

Good Queen Bess was fond of her dogs and the

sport they showed, and there is nothing unreasonable in supposing that those provided for the purpose above mentioned at Cowdray were in reality deerhounds. However, whether my supposition be correct or otherwise, there is no gainsaying the fact that this mention in the Scottish history is the earliest I have met with where the deerhound is actually alluded to.

Later on he became popular enough, and that he was highly valued by the clans or chieftains of his native country may be judged from the following story given by Raphael Holinshead, whose "Chronicles" were published about 1577. He says that many of the Pictish nobility repaired to Craithlint, to meet the King of Scots to hunt and make merry with him, where they found the Scottish dogs far excelled their own in "fairness, swiftness, and hardness, and also in long standing up and holding out." The Scottish lords gave their guests both dogs and bitches of their best strains; but they, not contented, stole one belonging to the king from his keeper; and this the most esteemed hound in the lot. The master of the leash being informed of the robbery, pursuit was taken after the thievish Picts, who, being overtaken, refused to give up the royal favourite, and in the end slew the master of the leash with their spears. Then the Scots mustered a

stronger force, including those who had been engaged in hunting, and they fell upon the Picts. A terrible struggle took place, one hundred of the Picts were slain and "threescore gentlemen" on the other side, besides a great number of commoners. The latter, poor fellows, not being deemed worthy of numeration in those bloodthirsty times, and, so long as the hound was recovered, little thought would be given to the dead "commoners" who fought for its possession, and, it is stated, few of them ever knew what the fight had been about.

Another interesting story is that relating to the family of St. Clair. King Robert Bruce, in following the chase upon the Pentland Hills, had often started a "white faunch deer," which always escaped from his hounds. He asked his nobles if any of them possessed dogs that they thought might prove more successful. Naturally, there was no one there so bold as to affirm his hounds better than those of the sovereign, until Sir William St. Clair came forward. He would wager his head that his two favourite hounds, "Help," and "Hold," would kill the deer before she could cross the March burn. Bruce, evidently of a sporting turn, at once wagered the Forest of Pentland Moor, to the head of the bold Sir William, against the accomplishment of the feat. The deer was roused by the slow, or drag

hounds, and St. Clair, in a suitable place, uncoupled his favourites in sight of the flying deer. St. Clair followed on horseback, and as the deer reached the middle of the brook, he in despair, believing his wager already lost, and his life as good as gone, leaped from his horse. At this critical moment, "Hold" stopped her quarry in the brook, and "Help" coming up, the deer was turned, and in the end killed within the stipulated boundary. The king, not far behind, was soon on the scene, and embracing his subject, "bestowed on him the lands of Kirton, Logan House, Earncraig, &c., in free forestrie." Scrope says the tomb of this Sir William Clair, on which he appears sculptured in armour, with a greyhound (deerhound) at his feet, is still to be seen in Rosslyn Chapel.

Thomson Gray in his "Dogs of Scotland" (1890), tells us that the earliest mention of deerhounds appears in 1528, in Pitcott's History of that country, wherein it is stated that "the king desired all gentlemen that had dogs that were good, to bring them to hunt in the said boundaries, which most of the noblemen of the Highlands did, such as the Earls of Huntley, Argyle, and Athole, who brought their deerhounds with them, and hunted with His Majesty.

However, about this time, and for many years later, a common but erroneous idea prevailed, that

the Irish wolfhound and the Scottish deerhound, were identical, and indeed, that the latter was merely an ordinary greyhound, with a rough, hard coat, produced by beneficent Nature to protect a delicate dog against the rigours of a northern climate.

About the end of the sixteenth century (1591), we are told that the Earl of Mar had large numbers of these deerhounds, but at the same period the Duke of Buckingham had great difficulty in obtaining Irish wolf dogs, a few couples of which, he wished to present to "divers princes and other nobles." So the Irish dog was even then becoming extinct, but the Scottish one, though rarer later on, survives to the present day, and is now more popular and numerous than at any previous period of his existence. Still, judging from what Pennant, writing in 1769, says, the deerhound must, about his time, have been in danger of extinction, for he says, "he saw at Gordon Castle, a true Highland greyhound, which has become very scarce. It was of large size, strong, deep chested, and covered with very long and rough hair. This kind was in great vogue in former days, and used in vast numbers at the magnificent stag chases by powerful chieftains."

One or two authors have assumed that the modern deerhound is a cross between the foxhound and the greyhound, or between the bloodhound and

the greyhound, but this I consider quite incorrect, nor in my researches have I been able to come across anything likely to sustain such a statement. If the deerhound is to be found in greater numbers now than previously, it is only because more attention is paid to his breeding, and because the many strains that a hundred years and more ago were in the out of the way places of the Highlands have, by better communication, been brought within the radius of canine admirers. Scrope, in his "Deer Stalking," published in 1838, has naturally much to write about the deerhound. He it is recommends the fox-hound and greyhound cross, and says that the celebrated sportsman Glengarry crossed occasionally with bloodhound, still Macneill of Colonsay, who wrote the article in "Days of Deerstalking," that deals mostly with those hounds, confesses that there were still pure deerhounds to be found when he states them to be very scarce at the time he wrote. Maybe they were scarce, but not sufficiently so as to induce people to attempt to reproduce them by such an unhallowed alliance.

A favourite sporting author from my earliest boyhood days has been Charles St. John, who, in his "Highland Sports," writes so charmingly and naturally of all he saw and shot and caught during his excursions. He wrote but eight years after Scrope,

still he says that the breed of Deerhounds which "had nearly become extinct, or, at any rate, was very rare a few years ago, has now become comparatively plentiful in all the Highland districts, owing to the increased extent of the preserved forests and the trouble taken by different proprietors and masters of mountain shootings who have collected and bred this noble race of dogs regardless of expense and difficulty." Not a word about Macneill's crosses or of those of Glengarry; and I am happy in the belief that our present race of deerhounds does not contain the slightest taint of bloodhound or foxhound blood for over a century. If it did, surely the black and tan colour and the greyhound markings would continually be appearing. I have yet to see a black and tan deerhound, or one similar to a foxhound in hue.

What an excellent picture St. John draws of Malcolm: "as fine a looking lad, of thirty-five, as ever stepped on heather," and of his two hounds, Bran and Oscar, whose descriptions tally with what I shall later on give to be those of a deerhound. There were no bloodhound and foxhound in Bran or Oscar, and well might such handsome, useful, faithful creatures, or similar ones, be worth the £50 a-piece, they would have brought even forty-five years ago.

Since St. John wrote some deer forests have been broken up into smaller holdings, and to this, perhaps,

may be attributed the fact that "coursing deer" is not followed so much as in his time. There are still some forests in which a deerhound may be taken out to assist at the termination of a stalk; but as the red deer is now mostly killed in "drives," a sort of battue in which the shooter can sit at ease until the deer come by, to be shot in a somewhat ignominious manner, the deerhound as such is little used. A stalker will find one useful at times, but even he is supplied with such a perfect rifle, so admirably sighted, and he is such a crack shot, that the stag seldom requires more than the hard bullet to kill him almost dead upon the spot.

About three years ago, the Earl of Tankerville, in a series of articles he wrote for the *Field*, made allusion to the deerhound. He said some that he saw "were beautiful, swift, and powerful. Some are able to pull down a stag single handed, but the bravest always gets killed in the end. The pure breed have keen noses as well as speed, and will follow the slot of a wounded deer perseveringly if they find blood. The most valued are not necessarily the most savage, for the latter (the reckless ones) go in and get killed, whilst the more wary, who have taken the hint after a pug or two, are equally enduring, and will hold their bay for any indefinite time, which is a merit of the first importance."

Lord Tankerville continues, that he was informed of a remarkable deerhound, belonging to a poacher in Badenoch, that never missed a deer. In due course he obtained the hound, and called it Bran. Later on it saved the life of a keeper from the furious attack of one of the wild bulls of Chillingham. After being delivered to his new home, Bran was placed in the kennel, and it was thought that the pallisades with which it was surrounded were sufficiently high to prevent any dog getting over them. However, Bran did succeed in scaling them, and Lord Tankerville, having paid his money and lost his dog, was considerably upset, and never thought of seeing the hound again. However, in a few days the "poacher" brought back the errant Bran, who had, in fact, reached his old home before his master, who was considerably astonished, on reaching his cottage, to see his old companion rush forward to meet him. The distance between Chillingham and the man's cottage was about seventy miles, and, to take the shortest route, which Bran no doubt did or he would have caught his master on the road, he must have swum Loch Ericht.

No doubt modern dog shows have done much to re-popularise the deerhound, now that he is so seldom used for that purpose for which, shall I say, nature first intended him. How little he is used in

deer stalking may be surmised by a list that appears in Mr. Weston Bell's monograph of the variety (1892). Here some fifty-eight forests are named, and in but about seven of them is the deerhound kept. The collie is now more frequently trained and used to track the wounded stag, because he works more slowly, and is therefore less liable to unduly scare and alarm the deer. From the earliest institution of dog shows, classes have been provided for the deerhound, and these have resulted in a number of excellent animals being benched of a uniformity and quality that our excellent friend Charles St. John would scarcely have thought possible, and Mr. M'Neil would have deemed an impossibility.

There is no handsomer dog than the deerhound—he has the elegance of shape, the light airy appearance of the greyhound, a hard, crisp, and picturesque jacket, either of fawn or grey brindle, an eye as bright as that of the gazelle, but loving, still sharp and intelligent; and a good specimen has not a bad feature about him. His disposition is of the best; he is sensible and kindly; and friends of mine to whom I gave a puppy, on its death refused to be consoled by any other dog than one of the same variety.

"It's a blooming lurcher," is the yokel's idea of a deerhound, an opinion in which the cockney corner man evidently coincides. Either will pass a rude

remark about your aristocratic canine companion. The Scotchman away from home, be he out at elbows, or otherwise, pays compliments to the dog. If his shoes are down at the heels the chances are he is the remains of a chieftain of some great clan, and, on the strength of your possession of one of his native quadrupeds, will seek to allay his thirst, or penchant for Glenlivat, at your expense. Still, I do not fancy that the deerhound is quite so popular as a companion over the border as he is on this side the border. Englishmen have paid greater attention to his breeding; the honours to be gained at shows make it worth while their doing so; and, being more difficult to rear than most other dogs, he requires greater care in bringing up, and, if not allowed continual exercise, will become crooked on his fore legs, and out at the elbows—ungainly enough in little dogs, but a terrible eyesore in big ones. They will not rear well in a kennel.

It has been said the deerhound is uncertain in his temper with children; in some cases this may be so, but not in all. Again, it has been stated that when a puppy he will chase anything that moves in front of him—sheep, poultry, &c. What puppy will not? All young dogs are alike in this particular, and if not carefully watched will, like your favourite little boy or girl, be for ever getting into mischief.

Deerhounds, like all other dogs, require early training, and when once broken off sheep and other "small deer," are as safe and reliable in the fields as any other of the canine race. As a fact, I believe that both pointers and setters, greyhounds, and even the collie himself, is as, "fond of mutton" as the often maligned dog about which this article is being written. Many dogs have been spoiled by their manners being neglected during their puppyhood; no doubt others will be so in the future, and it is a pity that one so docile, handsome, sagacious, and aristocratic as the deerhound, should obtain an evil name through the negligence or over-indulgence of its owner.

As already stated, dog shows have been of infinite advantage in raising the deerhound to its present popularity, though prior to this epoch, what Sir Walter Scott writes of his Maida and other favourite hounds, with Landseer's fine paintings, had made the general public anxious to see such handsome dogs in the flesh. The first show at Birmingham, in 1860, provided two classes for them, but there were few entries, and both leading prizes were taken by Lieut.-Colonel Inge, of Thorpe, near Tamworth, who, at that time, possessed a capital strain of them. Later on the numbers increased, and in 1862 there were ten competitors in the dog class, but they were a mixed lot, though the winner, called Alder, bred by

Sir John Macneil, was a splendid specimen, which again took leading honour two years later. The succeeding show had, for some reason or other, a capital entry, sixteen in the one class, six in the other, and these included several dogs from the Highlands, one of the latter, called Oscar, now beating Alder, who looked old and worn, and was past his best.

About this period Lord Henry Bentinck took great pride in his deerhounds, and kept a fine kennel of them. Mr. McKenzie, Ross-shire; Mr. J. Wright, Yeldersby House, Derby; Mr. Menzies, Cherthill; Mr. Grant, Glenmorriston; Colonel Campbell of Monzie; Lord Boswell; Mr. W. Gordon, Guardbridge, Fifeshire; Lord Bredalbane; the Duke of Sutherland; Mr. Spencer Lucy, and Dr. Hadden, have all at one time or another had good deerhounds in their kennels, as well as many of the older Scottish families.

In 1871 we find a Cameron of Lochiel sending to Curzon Hall and taking a first prize with Bruce. Sir St. George Gore was a frequent exhibitor, and in 1865 he showed a deerhound that was quite smooth, a big coarse, ugly greyhound in appearance, that of course did not take a prize. Mr. H. C. Musters, Captain Graham, of Durnock, and a few others who admired the fine form of the Scotch dog, were

exhibiting about 1870. The following year had the celebrated Warrior, that won so many prizes up and down the country, mostly in variety classes. However, prior to him came one or two exceptionally good dogs, Mr Beasley's bitch Countess especially so; nor must Mr. Hickman's excellent bitch Morna be omitted, for he was not only good to look at, but could boast a lineage which contained some of the bluest blood of the day. Following a few years later was that fine old dog Bevis (Mr. Hood Wright's), so sober and sedate that in his declining years he took to the stage, and appeared with great success at one or two of the Sheffield pantomimes at Christmas.

There are now, at least a dozen shows held annually, at which classes are provided for this variety, and naturally new breeders have sprung up. Mr. E. Weston Bell, of Rossie, Perthshire, has got together a kennel containing a number of splendid deerhounds; and Mr. W. H. Singer, of Frome, Somerset; Mr. Walter Evans, Birchfield, Birmingham; Mr. R. H. Wright, Newton-le-Willows; Mr. H. P. Parker, Stourbridge; Mr. W. Gibbons, Stratford-on-Avon; Mr. A. Maxwell, Croft, near Darlington; Major Lewis, Bath, all possess deerhounds of the highest merit. Perhaps the best of the race, at the time I write, in the summer of

1892, are Sir Gavin, Fingall II., Earl II., Ensign, Shepherd, Swift, Enterprise, Royal Lufra (a beautiful headed bitch, for which excellence she won a special prize at Bath not long ago), Rossie Blue Bell, and there are many others, almost, if not equally good to look at on the show bench.

The deerhound, in colour, should be either brindled in various shades, blue, or fawn; white is detrimental, though a little on the chest or feet does not matter very much. Pure white dogs are occasionally found, but it is not a deerhound colour, any more than it is that of a collie, though Mr. Morton Campbell, jun., of Stracathro, near Brechin, has a white hound of considerable beauty, and though obtained from the Highlands, its pedigree is unknown. I prefer the darker shades of colour; the darker brindles are very attractive, and in actual work, it is a colour that tones well with the surrounding rocks and dark heather. The largest and heaviest dogs are not to be recommended, either for work or otherwise, they cut themselves on the rocks, and are not nearly so active and lithe on the rough ground as the lighter and smaller specimens. The dog should not, at any rate, be more than about thirty inches at the shoulder, the bitch from one to two inches less. One or two specimens have been shown, and won prizes too, that measured up to thirty-two inches,

and even an inch more, and it is said that Bran, figured in "Dogs of the British Isles," was thirty-three inches! Such are too big for work, and nowadays have not much chance of winning on the show bench. The following heights and weights of some of the best deerhounds of the modern standard may be interesting, and all are excellent specimens in every way, and perhaps equal to anything that has yet been seen. Mr. Walter Evan's Fingal II., stands $29\frac{3}{4}$ inches at shoulder, and weighs 87lb.; his Earl II., $28\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 81lb.; Duke of Brewood, $30\frac{1}{4}$ inches, weighs 88lb.; and his bitch, Enterprise, stands 29 inches, and weighs 85lb., a big weight for a bitch. Mr. W. H. Singer's well-known dog, Swift, is 79lb. weight, and 30 inches at the shoulder; and his bitch, She, weighs 72lb., and stands $26\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

In general form the deerhound should be like a greyhound: ears similar, loins likewise, legs and feet equally good. In his character he differs from the smooth hound considerably, as he does in coat, which is hard, crisp, and close, not too long, and silkiness on the top knot, and elsewhere, is not desirable. In running he carries his head higher than a greyhound, nor does he lay himself down so closely to his work; in galloping, he appears to be on the look out for contingencies, and does not, as a rule, go at

his greatest pace, unless actually required to do so. He hangs back, as it were—maybe to avoid a stroke from the stag, or to look out for the proper place to seize; some will seize one part, some another. "Bran's point of attack was always at the shoulder or fore leg, whilst Oscar had a habit of biting at the hind leg, above the hock, frequently cutting through the flesh and tendons in an extraordinary manner, and tumbling over the deer very quickly," says St. John in his "Highland Sports."

Their endurance is great, their scent keen, and Ronaldson Macdonnel, of Glengarry, instances one dog, that, held in a leash, followed the track of a wounded stag, in unfavourable rainy weather, for three successive days, when the game was shot. The story goes, that this stag was wounded within three miles of Invergarry House, and was traced that night to the Glenmoriston. At dusk, in the evening, the stalkers placed a stone on each side of the last fresh print of his hoof, and another over it; and this they did each night following. On the succeeding morning they removed the upper stone, when the dog recovered the scent, and the deer was that day hunted over a great part of the Glenmoriston ground. On the third day, it was retraced on to Glengarry, and there shot.

When hunting, the deerhound runs mute, as he

does when coursing, but when the stag is brought to bay, the hound opens, and by his "baying," or barking, attracts his master to the spot, where, in some pool, with a steep rock at his back, the noble monarch of the glen in vain bids defiance to his foes.

In puppyhood, the deerhound is delicate, and difficult to rear, that scourge known as distemper carrying off large numbers. This is, no doubt, owing to continued inbreeding, but with our increasing knowledge of canine ailments, the mortality is decreasing.

During 1892, a club for looking after the welfare of the deerhound was formed, but at the time I write, their description of the dog has not been published. They, however, have decided not to give any numerical list of points. Failing the club's standard, I have carefully compiled the following description:

The deerhound is an elegantly shaped, graceful dog, a good specimen being almost perfect in symmetry. He should be particularly neat and cleanly cut about the neck and shoulders, perfectly straight in front, stifles well turned behind, and generally giving the appearance of speed and power, with freedom in his movements. His face and eyes are pleasing in their expression, bright in their intelli-

gence—a perfect deerhound is perhaps about the most sensible looking of all our dogs, not even excepting the collie.

In *head* and *face* the deerhound is not unlike a rather rough-headed greyhound, perhaps wider in skull and stronger in jaw and nose, and the shaggy brow and more hairy face give him a hardier and less polished appearance. The head should have the greatest width at the ears, and taper gradually to the nose, without any dip between the eyes. The jaws should be level and very powerful.

The *eyes* ought to be bright, dark, or hazel, sparkling, not too big, but just big enough; beaming with intelligence and good nature, and from which he obtains, in a great degree, his charming expression. Light coloured eyes are condemned.

Ears small, soft, glossy, free from long hair, and should be darker coloured than the rest of the body. A little silky hair on the ears is often seen in good specimens. When excited the ear is raised high, without quite losing the fold, not quite a semi-prick ear.

Neck long, strong and muscular, gracefully poised, quite as long as that of the greyhound; but the "mane," which a good coated dog ought to have, makes the neck look short.

The *chest* and *shoulders* are important, and the former must be deep, but not wide in front; ribs

fairly well sprung, and the shoulders neatly and elegantly laid, for if too upright the hound is sure to be slow.

Back and *loins* strong and very powerful, the latter firm and hard; back not level, but rather arched towards the loins, for the same reason a greyhound is similarly shaped.

Legs and *feet:* The former must be straight in front, strong and muscular, and without any undue heaviness near the shoulder that is likely to give an appearance of being out at the elbows. Hind legs particularly well muscled, stifles strong and neatly turned, so displaying the "sickle hocks." Stiffness or stiltiness in the hind quarters ought to be absolute disqualification, for a deerhound that cannot gallop, and walks like a dancing master, is of no use whatever; feet firm, thick, well arched, with the toes close and strong.

The *coat* should be hard, crisp and close, without any degree of softness or woolliness—the latter is very bad. One inclined to be curly and crisp and hard and dense is to be preferred to a perfectly straight jacket that is soft, fine, and open. Silkiness or softness of the hair on the skull is to be guarded against, though it repeatedly appears; indeed, most specimens are silkier here than on other parts of the body. There should be a hard close coat down the

legs in accordance with the quantity carried by the dog elsewhere, though nothing approaching feather. The typical deerhound ought to have a fairly coated head, and a good, moderately long and hard jacket all over, but not a profuse or shaggy one.

Colour: Dark brindled, fawn brindled, and fawn are the best colours; white deerhounds are sometimes seen, but are not to be encouraged, and no doubt the brindles in their varying shades are the most fashionable and the best colours. Fawns not too red and fawns of a lighter shade are not so frequently met with; both are good, and in the judging ring are equal to the brindles. Blues or slate coloured hounds are likewise repeatedly seen, though not so common now as some years ago, and this colour is quite equal to either the fawns or brindles. A little white on the breast or on the feet is not detrimental, but a deerhound is a "whole coloured" dog, and patched or gaudily marked puppies ought to be destroyed when born. All very light coloured dogs should have black points. As to puppies, although black and tan is not allowable in a full grown dog, Mr. Hickman tells me that his well-known grey-blue bitch Morna, when a few weeks old, was a perfect black and tan or black, blue and tan, with the tan spots over the eyes, but when her coat changed she became a grey or blue-grizzle in colour.

The *stern* is carried low but gracefully, is full long in proportion to the size of the dog, and should not be smooth, but covered with hair according to the proportion carried by the dog elsewhere. Feathering here, as on the legs, is objectionable.

General Symmetry is an important consideration —by it is to be understood a hound of perfect proportion with all points duly balanced.

Weight, dogs about 85lb. to 105lb.; bitches, about 65lb. to 85lb.

	Value.		Value.
Head and skull	15	Legs and feet.....	10
Eyes and ears	10	Coat	8
Neck and chest	10	Stern	5
Body, including loins ...	10	Colour	5
Thighs and hocks	12	General symmetry.....	15
	57		43

Grand Total **100.**

CHAPTER VIII.

THE GREYHOUND.

NOT one of our British dogs has had such justice done to him by writers on canine matters as the greyhound. He has always been popular, and, being probably the oldest of his race, no doubt quite deserves all that has been said and written of him. So far back as the second century Arrian gives us a long and painstaking work on coursing, which, in 1831 was admirably translated from the original Greek into English by George Dansey. In 1853 that great authority on the greyhound, "Stonehenge," produced his excellent and reliable work, and I fancy the latter will survive as the best of all for very many years to come.

Whether, in the first instance, our earliest dogs hunted by sight or scent I am not going to attempt to decide here. Both forms of "venerie" may have been followed at the same period; the deer and the hare hunted by sight, the wolf, fox, or other beast, by scent. The earliest coursers, dating back to

what may be called the uncivilised period of our history, were assisted by nets, and then by bows and arrows, in taking the game, for at that period there were few cultivated stretches of land free from forest of sufficient extent to allow the long courses preferred at the present day. However that may be, greyhounds pretty much of the shape and form they are found now were known prior to King Canute's time, when no one of less degree than a "gentleman"—possibly a freeholder—was permitted to keep greyhounds.

In the British Museum there is a fine old sculpture of two greyhounds fondling each other, and this was taken from the ruins of Antoninus, near Rome. In Dansey's translation of Arrian there is an excellent engraving of this beautiful work, and other sculptures of even an earlier period are to be found, in which the greyhound type of dog is predominant. Confined, however, to the "gentleman," coursing could not become very popular, especially when even he "was not allowed to take his greyhound within two miles of a royal forest unless two of its toes were cut off." Even so late as 1853 each greyhound had a tax to pay of 22*s.* each, whilst other dogs, may be of equal value, could be kept at a charge by the State of from 15*s.* 4*d.* to 8*s.* 2*d.* each.

However, still keeping to old times, we find our

old sporting sovereign King John, receiving, in 1203, "two leashes of greyhounds," amongst other valuables, in return for the renewal of a grant to a certain right, and the same monarch repeatedly took greyhounds in lieu of money where fines or penalties had been incurred and forfeitures to the Crown became due. Two of these are on record, one being "five hundred marks, ten horses, and ten leashes of greyhounds;" the other "one swift running horse and six greyhounds." Thus early, we read of a brace (two) and a leash (three) of greyhounds, when ordinary hounds were known in "couples." It has been said, though there is no proof in support of the assertion, that the "Isle of Dogs," some four miles from the city of London, obtained its name from the fact that certain of our monarchs had kennels of greyhounds and other dogs there.

In the times of the earlier King Edward, Kent must have had some notoriety for the excellence of its greyhounds, for, according to Blount's "Ancient Tenures," the landowners in the manor of Setene (Sittingbourne) were compelled to lend their greyhounds, when the King went to Gascony "so long as a pair of shoes of 4*d*. price would last."

The erudite Froissart tells the following story of Richard II. which, maybe, redounds as little to the credit of the wretched sovereign as to the dog; for

the one proved grossly superstitious and the other exhibited a degree of faithlessness that one does not expect to find in a hound. The king had a favourite greyhound called Mithe, his constant attendant, and so attached to his master that it would follow no one else. One day Henry, Duke of Lancaster and the king were talking together, when suddenly Mithe left his royal master and commenced to fawn upon the duke, whining and showing such pleasure as he had never before done to a stranger or even to a guest. Lancaster expressed his astonishment at the behaviour of the greyhound, but the king said, "Cousin, this bodeth great good for you, as it is an evil sign for me. That greyhound acknowledgeth you here this day as King of England, as ye shall be, and I shall be deposed. Mithe knows this naturally, so take him; he will follow you and forsake me." And the story concludes that ever after the dog forsook the weak and vacillating Richard II., became the companion of his "cousin," and, in the end, affairs turned out as the king had prognosticated. At least, so our English history informs us.

There appears to be some fatality attending these royal attachments to the greyhound; for we have Charles I. with one as a companion. "Methinks," said he to Sir Philip Warwick, "I hear my

dog scratching at the door. Let in Gipsy." Whereupon Sir Philip, who opened the door and let in the monarch's favourite, took the boldness to say: "Sir, I perceive you love a greyhound better than you do a spaniel?" "Yes," replied the King, "for they equally love their masters, and yet do not flatter them so much." This unfortunate monarch met his death on the scaffold.

But let us leave these troublous times, and at once enter upon that epoch in the history of the greyhound when he was used much in the same fashion as he is to-day. In Elizabeth's reign the first rules and regulations as to coursing were drawn up at the instance of the Duke of Norfolk, and they are very similar to those of the present day. That dog which led to the hare, won, if no other points were made; the hare had to have twelve score yards law; two wrenches stood for one turn; a go-bye was equal to two turns. If a dog that led and beat his opponent stood still in the field, and refused to go further, he lost the course; if, by accident, a dog was run over in his course, the trial was void, and he who did the mischief had to make reparation. There were other regulations likewise, but this short summary will show how closely they approach the rules in force at the present time.

In 1776, the Earl of Orford established the

Swaffham (Norfolk) Coursing Club, the earliest of its kind, and contemporary writers tell us this was the turning point in the popularity of the pastime. In 1798, the club numbered twenty-four members, there being one vacancy, and in addition there were a lady patroness, the Marchioness of Townsend; vice patroness, Countess of Cholmondeley; assistant vice patroness, Mrs. Coke, and one honorary member, the Earl of Montraith. Following Swaffham in 1780 the Ashdown Park Meeting was established by Lord Craven, Lord Sefton, and Lord Ashbrook, and this exists at the present time, and is by far the oldest established coursing meeting we possess. The Altcar Club, established in 1825, and the Ridgway Club, in 1828, still amongst the leading meetings of the year, are well supported, and appear to have a long and useful existence in front of them. Swaffham was resuscitated on more than one occasion, and in 1892 a meeting was held there. Other old fixtures that may be mentioned are Malton, in 1781; Louth, 1806; Newmarket, 1805; Midlothian, 1811; Ardrossan, established a few years later, and, although there is no specific date given, the keeper of the "Stud Book" believes that the Biggar meeting was in existence prior to the present century, but, like many other of the early gatherings, it has long been discontinued.

Mention has already been made of Lord Orford, a nobleman of great sporting proclivities, and of unusual eccentricities. If reliance can be placed upon the "Sportsman's Cabinet," published in 1803, and I believe there is nothing to the contrary, it contains some particulars of greyhound coursing just prior to that date that may be of interest. His lordship's bitch Czarina is said to have won forty-seven matches without being beaten. She had no puppies until about thirteen years old, when she gave birth to eight, all of which lived and coursed. The last match that Czarina ran took place when her owner, confined to the house, was supposed to be watched by an attendant. However, just as the two greyhounds were slipped, Lord Orford, looking wild, as he was, and ill, came on to the field riding his piebald pony, and no one could restrain him from his anxiety to view the course and gallop after the dogs to see his favourite bitch win, which she did. The trial was barely over when Lord Orford fell from his pony, and, pitching on his head, expired almost immediately.

Afterwards his greyhounds were sold, and Czarina with the pick of the kennel purchased by Colonel Thornton, at prices ranging from thirty guineas to fifty guineas apiece. These appear to be pitiful sums when compared with the 850 guineas Fullerton

produced in the sale ring in 1888, and, though the matches run by Czarina cannot be compared with the work done by our existent crack, both having, comparatively speaking, a similar record, the two may be placed side by side.

Major Topham's pure white dog Snowball, up to the close of last century, was said to be the best greyhound yet produced, and was a cross between the Norfolk and Yorkshire strains, each equally fashionable at that time. Snowball won ten pieces of plate and forty matches, and his owner accepted every challenge that was made for him to run, irrespective of the kind of country, rough hills, abounding with fences, or otherwise. Whether the greyhounds of that day had greater staying powers than those of the present time, or were not so handy with their teeth, or the hares were stronger, we know not, but Snowball's chief performance was in a course "extending over four miles without a turn, including a hill half a mile (*sic*) in height, twice ascended." He is said to have run this trial with his sister, whom he beat, killing the hare close to Flexton. A dog like Master McGrath would have saved himself such a long trial by reason of his extraordinary skill with his teeth. Now, a greyhound must not only be fast, but a "good killer," to prove of extraordinary merit. Courses of four miles, "up

and down a high hill twice," would quite preclude any modern greyhound getting to the end of a stake, when perhaps he might have four or five courses to run before being returned the winner. Major, a brother to Snowball, and both out of Czarina, already mentioned, was said to be the faster of the two, but without the stamina of his brother; still he was successful in his matches, which at that time usually took the place of our modern coursing meetings.

The latter quickly attained the position they hold at the present day, for they afforded capital sport to the million at a minimum cost; they were the means of producing first-class dogs, and as a man to keep a greyhound need not of necessity be a "gentleman," or of extraordinary means, public coursing obtained a hold on the public second only to those gatherings which took place on the racecourse. Even at this time, say about 1850, the licence to keep a greyhound cost more than it did for any other dog, viz., 12*s.* 6*d.* This was an arrangement that the growing liberality of our Government soon abolished, and after various changes a greyhound has to pay but the 7*s.* 6*d.* duty, just the same as though he were a mongrel terrier. I do not know that anyone objects to this, or has hitherto looked upon the equalisation of the dog licence as specially dishonourable to those of the

canine race which can lay claim to an ancient lineage.

Although a few years ago, an attempt for a change was made by certain private companies, who gave large prizes, and arranged stakes for which the entry fee was £50, and of which more later on, they did not shake the popularity of our great coursing meeting, that known as the Waterloo, and run over the flats of Altcar, not far from Liverpool.

No doubt this Waterloo gathering, which was established in 1836, and has been continued yearly ever since, is the most popular meeting of the kind ever held—the chief prize is now valued at £500, the stake being made up of an entrance fee of sixty-four subscribers at £25 each. A portion of the money goes to two minor stakes, the "Plate" and the "Purse," competed for by dogs beaten in the two early rounds of the Cup. It must be stated, however, that during the first year the Waterloo Cup was an eight-dog stake; in 1837 sixteen dogs ran, and from 1838 to 1856 thirty-two dogs competed. From the latter date to now the arrangements have been as they are at present. Here, as a rule, the best dogs in England, Ireland, and Scotland compete, and for an owner of greyhounds to win "the Cup" is an honour as high as

that achieved by a racing man who wins "the Derby"—the blue ribbon of the leash.

From time to time all the celebrities, and many others not celebrities, in the greyhound world, have run at Altcar, so kindly and liberally provided by the Earl of Sefton, who, by so doing, must, more than any other man, have promoted the honest sport of greyhound coursing.

Going back not many years there are met with such well-known names as Cerito, winner of the Waterloo Cup three times when a thirty-two dog stake; Hughie Graham, Larriston, Judge, King Lear, Captain Spencer's handsome dog Sunbeam, Mr. Blackstock's Maid of the Mill, Canaradzo, Cardinal York, Sea Rock, Roaring Meg, Chloe, Mr. G. Carruthers' Meg, Brigadier, Lobelia, Sea Cove, Bit of Fashion, Miss Glendyne, Greater Scot, Herschel, Mr. Pilkington's Burnaby; Bab at the Bowster, Pretender, Chameleon, Muriel, Peasant Boy, Gallant Foe, with Coomassie (only 44½lb. weight), the smallest greyhound that ever won the "Cup," and she did so twice. Of course there were other great greyhounds, but the blood of those above, or of many of them, will be found in the pedigrees of the most successful dogs of the present day.

Following such good ones as some of the above, the advent of Lord Lurgan's Master McGrath, as a

puppy, in 1868, caused a great sensation. He was a rather coarse animal in appearance, but he could gallop faster than any dog he ever met, and was extremely "handy" with his teeth, *i.e.*, he usually struck and held his hare after the first wrench or two. Thus he invariably made his courses short, while his subsequent opponents were consequently handicapped by longer trials. This son of Dervock and Lady Sarah ran unchallenged through the Cup that year, and in 1869; in 1870 he was beaten by Lady Lyons (Mr Trevor's, but running in Colonel Goodlake's nomination). The following year he succeeded in leading and beating every dog he came against, and had the honour of winning three Waterloo Cups out of four times trying—a feat which everyone thought would never be equalled. McGrath was fêted; he was taken to Windsor and introduced to the Queen, money would not buy him, and he died quietly in his kennels, in Ireland, at Brownlow House, near Lurgan. So popular were the victories of the great Irish dog with the people generally, that it was said that the advent of another Master McGrath would do more to suppress sedition in Ireland than any Land Act a Government might offer. This celebrated greyhound was black, with a few white marks on him; he weighed only 54lb., and, as already stated, was considered to be actually

invincible in the work that he had done, winning in public thirty-six courses out of thirty-seven in which he competed.

But there was the Irish dog's equal, indeed, more than his equal, to come, and in 1888 Mr. James Dent, a Northumberland courser, who had already proved very successful with his kennel, had a puppy by Greentick—Bit of Fashion, by his favourite Paris by Ptarmigan—Gallant Foe; Paris was of the same litter as Princess Dagmar, who won the Waterloo Cup in 1881. This puppy, Fullerton, he thought exceptional in speed and cleverness, but before competing in the Waterloo Cup, it was purchased by Colonel North, at that time entering heartily into the sport of greyhound coursing. Eight hundred and fifty guineas was the sum given for the puppy, the highest price ever paid for a greyhound in public, though in private it has been said much higher sums have been obtained. His trials were so good that he started second favourite for the Waterloo Cup in 1889, and, as the great Irish dog had done a few years before, fairly spread-eagled all comers, and ultimately divided with his kennel companion Troughend. In 1890 Fullerton won outright; he did likewise in 1891, and being kept back for the following season's Waterloo, notwithstanding an indifferent trial that he had run in public, started

once more a warm favourite, and how he won his fourth great victory is now a matter of history. In all, this extraordinary greyhound ran thirty-one courses in public and only sustained a single defeat, this being in the final of the puppy stakes at Haydock Park, where, after being hard run, he was beaten by Greengage, owned by Mr. Gladstone. Fullerton, a brindled dog, with a little white on him, scales about 65lb. weight when in training, and he, with Master McGrath, form the subject of the illustration immediately preceding this chapter. I need hardly draw attention to the great difference in build and general formation of the two best greyhounds that ever ran.

It is rather difficult to compare the respective merits of these two great greyhounds, which I have mentioned at considerable length because of their unsurpassed excellence. The Irish dog was certainly the better killer; maybe not quite so fast as the Northumbrian dog, who in his last Waterloo also exhibited determination and gameness that must stamp him in that particular as second to none. As an old dog Fullerton did not go quite so well as when in his prime, but he was as keen as ever, if not quite so perfect in covering his game. Of this dog it may be mentioned that after his last victory in 1892 he was placed at stud, his fee being forty

guineas. At the time I write this, not one of the many bitches that went to him produced a puppy, and so he was put into training again. It may be mentioned as indicative of Fullerton's world-wide reputation, that several of his services were secured by cablegram for American bitches.

There was another extraordinary dog, or rather bitch, that flourished between the years 1867—1870, by many good judges considered even superior to Lord Lurgan's great dog; but she was not, though her courses were run on a greater variety of ground than were those of either of the "cracks" already mentioned. Both were, it may be said, "bottled" up for the great meetings. But Mr. Blanchard's red or fawn bitch Bab at the Bowster, by Boanerges—Mischief, when brought out she in reality went as well at Altcar as she did at the Scottish National, where she won the Douglas Cup on two occasions. She also ran second for the Waterloo Cup, won the Great Scarisbrick Cup twice, and during the three years she was to the fore won sixty-two courses and lost but five. "Bab" was a neat, handsome animal, weight, 47lb., and though perhaps not quite as speedy as Fullerton and Master McGrath, she was quite their equal in cleverness, and well deserves her place here, for no other greyhound ever won so many courses in public. One cele-

brated performance of hers may be noted. This was at the Brigg meeting, in the Elsham Cup. Mr. Blanchard's bitch had a terrific course when running a bye, and after the trial had ended the hare got on to the railway line, and here she was run along the hard and rough "permanent way" for at least a mile before puss was killed. Although Bab at the Bowster was much exhausted when taken up, she divided the Cup next day. Some of these Lincolnshire hares were perfect demons, and, like those of Ridgway and a few other places, often enough ran their pursuers to a stand-still. Much different from those at our "inclosed meetings"!

It will be seen from what has been written that not one of this leash of celebrated greyhounds was of exceptional size. Colonel North's dog is the biggest of the lot. It is seldom indeed that the over-sized dog, even one so big as Fullerton, is good; he may be fast enough, but, as a rule, is awkward and ungainly when next the hare, and cannot turn in such little room as the smaller dog, who nicks in, keeps close on the scut of puss, and wins the course. Still, here, as elsewhere, a good big one will beat an equally good little one, the difficulty being to find a good big one.

About twelve years ago, inclosed meetings for

greyhounds were inaugurated, and I believe, during the time the most important ones continued, they seldom flourished. Considerable harm was done by them to the sport of coursing. They were gate-money meetings, run in inclosures, with hares that might have been turned down "the night before the race," for anything anyone knew to the contrary. Puss was sent through an opening, near to which the slipper stood, he let her get away, then slipped his dogs. The hare had, perhaps, a distance of 800 yards to go before she reached a refuge, into which her pursuers could not enter. Usually she escaped; before doing so she might be turned a few times, but a very fast hare could reach the covert without being turned or wrenched by either dog. A thousand-pound stake was to be won at one meeting, at Kempton Park, not far from London. Big prizes were also provided at Haydock Park near Liverpool, where they did their best to breed their own hares, and at Gosforth, near Newcastle. Not one has proved pecuniarily remunerative, though the system survives at Haydock and at two or three smaller meetings. They are, however, not encouraged by the older class of coursing men, who consider them too much like the rabbit coursing with terriers and whippets, so popular in the North of England, and affording more a test

of pace than of the actual all-round merits of a greyhound.

The pedigree of the greyhound has for many years had considerable attention. The National Coursing Club, established in 1858, rules all matters appertaining thereto; and no dog can win a prize at any coursing meeting that has not been duly registered in the "Greyhound Stud Book," which costs a few shillings only, and those of "unknown pedigree" cannot compete all.

The Council of the Coursing Club is decided by election, those coursing clubs with over twenty members having the privilege of sending a member each. There were twenty-seven such bodies in 1891. Although a well-known coursing authority, named Thacker, started a coursing calendar about 1840-1, the present calendar was not commenced until 1857, "Stonehenge" being its first editor, and succeeding him, and until 1891, "Robin Hood," Mr. C. M. Browne, "occupied the chair." At his death the duty devolved upon Mr. B. C. Evelegh, of the *Field*, writing as "Allan-a-dale." The first keeper of the "Greyhound Stud Book," was Mr. D. Brown, well known as "Maida," in the columns of *Bell's Life* and the *Field* for many years. During eleven years Mr. Brown has most ably conducted the registration affairs of the National Coursing Club,

and his retirement, on the grounds of ill-health, is a distinct loss to the "Stud Book." Mr. W. F. Lamonby, also on the coursing staff of the *Field*, is, as I write, keeper of the "Greyhound Stud Book." For a great many years Mr. Lamonby has been, and still is, well known by his contributions written over the name of "Skiddaw."

The last publication of the Coursing Calendar contained reports and particulars of fifty-nine meetings for the season 1891-2. From this, the extent of the sport may be judged, though some years ago its popularity appeared to be seriously threatened by legislation that gave a tenant the peculiar privilege to kill ground game on the land he farmed, irrespective of agreement to the contrary with the landlord. Though hares are scarcer than they were, still the sport has not, in reality, suffered very much, nor, with the support it receives on all hands, is it likely to do so in the near future. Still, more recent legislation, affording hares a certain close time during which they are not to be sold, may be the means of reviving some meetings, that had already become defunct.

The greyhound as a "show dog" is a failure, rather than otherwise. With very few exceptions, the best animals in the field have not possessed that beautiful shape and elegance of contour that is

attractive in the ring. Master McGrath was as ugly a dog to look at, from this point of view, as could be imagined; Fullerton is better, but his appearance is by no means taking. Mr. J. H. Salter has had one or two good dogs in the field that could win on the bench, though Mr. T. Ashton's Jenny Jones is, perhaps, the most notable exception to the general rule, she having been so consistent a performer as to be heavily backed for the Waterloo Cup of 1888, which, however, she failed to win. As a bench bitch, now in 1892, she is about as good as anything we have, which has been proved under many good judges. In December 1891 Mr. H. T. Clarke, of Abingdon, made what I fancy is a record, for his black dog Carhampton, then over three years old, won second prize at Birmingham show, and the following week ran through a nine dog stake at the Cliffe Coursing Meeting. A most unusual occurrence, for a greyhound in condition to run is not in a fit state to compete successfully on the show bench.

Bab at the Bowster was handsome enough for exhibitions—very much of the stamp of Jenny Jones in fact—and Lauderdale, who for a long time, when shown by Mr. T. Sharples, was perfection in shape and form, and a fast dog too, but it was said, "his heart was in the wrong place." The best show of greyhounds is usually to be seen at

Darlington at the end of July, and the committee there have usually a "coursing" man to judge them.

The leading kennels of greyhounds in this country, at the present time, are those of Mr. L. Pilkington, Widnes; Colonel North, Eltham; Mr. G. J. Alexander, Ireland; Mr. Swinburne, Ireland; Mr. W. H. Smith, Worcestershire; Sir W. C. Anstruther, Scotland; Captain Archdale, Ireland; Mr. J. Trevor, Lichfield; Sir T. Brocklebank, Lancashire; Sir R. Jardine, Scotland; Mr. J. H. Salter, Essex; Mr. R. F. Gladstone, Lancashire; Mr. J. Russel, Scotland; Lord Masham, Yorkshire; Mr. R. M. Douglas, Ireland; Messrs. Fawcett, Lancashire; Mr. Harding Cox, Hampshire; Mr. C. E. Marfleet, Lincolnshire; Mr. F. Watson, Ireland; Mr. G. Barratt, Norfolk; Major Holmes, Essex; Mr. J. Quihampton, Hants; The Marquis of Anglesea; Mr. F. E. C. Dobson, Durham; Mr. T. Jenkins, Carmarthen; Messrs. Smith, Suffolk; Count Stroganoff, Kent; Messrs. Hale, Suffolk; Mr. A. J. Humphry, Surrey; Mr. W. Ingram, M.P., with a number of others whose names do not at present occur to me.

I do not think better can be done in further description of the greyhound, than to adopt "Stonehenge's" points and descriptions, making only a few trifling alterations as occasion requires.

The head should be fairly large between the ears, the jaw lean, but by no means weak, as, if it were so, he would not be able to hold his game, and there should be little or no development of the nasal sinuses; the eye full, bright, and penetrating, a good eye is a *sine quâ non;* ears small, and folding down when at rest, but raised in semi-prick fashion when animated; teeth strong and the mouth level (many of the show greyhounds are overshot, which gives the dog an extra long and smartly cut jaw); neck fairly long and a trifle arched rather than otherwise.

The shoulders must be well placed, as oblique as possible; the chest fairly deep, and as wide as may be consistent with speed. A "narrow-fronted," shallow-chested greyhound is no use. There should be good length from the elbow to the knee, compared with that from the knee to the ground. Feet hard and close, not so round and cat-like as in the foxhound, and with the toes well defined or well developed.

The loins strong and broad; back powerful, and, in the speediest and best dogs, slightly arched.

Hind quarters very muscular; stifles strong and well bent—a straight stifled dog cannot gallop; hind legs well turned and shapely, and, as in all speedy animals, somewhat long, looking by their

curve even longer than they actually are; the tail is generally fine and nicely curved, but some strains carry more hair than others.

Colours vary—blacks, brindles, reds, fawns, blues, or slates, and these colours mixed with white. One hue is as good as another, though white is considered indicative of a certain amount of weakness—still there have been good dogs almost pure white, Snowball, Scotland Yet, and Canaradzo to wit.

In disposition the greyhound is, as a rule, kindly and amiable; dogs in high training are apt to be unreliable, and during exercise may fight and seriously injure each other.

The following are the points:—

	Value.		Value.
Head and eyes	10	Hind quarters	20
Neck	15	Feet	15
Chest and fore quarters	20	Tail	5
Loin and back ribs.....	15	Colour	0
	60		40

Grand total, 100.

The points of the course are as follows:—

Speed: which shall be estimated as one, two, or three points, according to the degree of superiority shown. The *go-bye:* Two points, or, if passed in the outer circle, three points. The *turn:* one point. The *wrench:* half a point. The *kill:* two

points, or, in a descending scale, in proportion to the degree of merit displayed in that kill, which may be of no value. The *trip*, or unsuccessful effort to kill, or where a greyhound flecks the hare and cannot hold her, one point. There are also penalties for refusing to fence; where a dog, from his own defect, refuses to follow the hare at which he is slipped; and where he stands still.

Of course, in dealing with a trial between two greyhounds, very much rests with the judge, and there is no doubt that the two judges of the generation are Mr. G. Warwick, who officiated at Waterloo for thirteen consecutive years, and his successor, Mr. James Hedley, who, since Mr. Warwick's retirement, has done duty at the same meeting for nineteen years without a break. Almost as much depends upon the slipper, and after the celebrated Tom Raper, who was *par excellence* for a quarter of a century, T. Wilkinson and T. Bootiman are the leading exponents of this arduous and difficult department of greyhound coursing.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER IX.

THE WHIPPET.

With, I believe few exceptions, the whippet or snap dog has not been included as a distinct variety in any book on English dogs. Still, it is now, and has been for some time, quite a breed of itself, and amongst the colliers and other working men in the north of England, including Lancashire and Yorkshire, none is so popular or provides so much amusement.

Originally the "whippet" was a small dog—a cross between the Italian greyhound and some terrier or other, partaking in general appearance more of the greyhound cross than of the terrier. Thus, in many parts of the north, the dog is still called an "Hitalian," the local pronunciation of the name of that country from which it is supposed the fragile toy dog first came. He is likewise known as a "running" dog, the reason for which will be obvious.

The whippet in perfection is a miniature grey-

hound, built on the lines of a Fullerton or of a Bab at the Bowster, but smaller in size. It is kept specially for running races and for coursing rabbits on enclosed grounds arranged for the purpose, and for which it undergoes a course of training suitable to the circumstances. Both coursing and running matches may be considered the popular pastime amongst a very large class in the mining and manufacturing districts northwards, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, in Durham, Lancashire, and Yorkshire especially.

Several attempts have recently been made to extend the popularisation of the whippet, especially so far as its running powers are concerned. The Kennel Club has, for the first time this year (1892), given it an entry in the Stud Book, and classes have been provided for it at several south country shows. The latter had repeatedly appeared in the catalogues at Darlington and elsewhere in the north, but they seldom filled satisfactorily, and as a "bench dog" I need scarcely say the whippet is not likely to be any greater success than the greyhound. The entries made in the Stud Book are few, and most of the dogs there are minus a leading part of their history—namely, their pedigrees.

Without taking any pessimistic view of the question, I must confess my disbelief in the success of

any scheme to make the whippet a popular animal outside the society in which it is now received. Its surroundings have not, as a rule, been of the highest in the social scale, nor have the rabbit coursing matches and tests of speed always been conducted by its owners in the fairest way possible.

Various tricks are tried by the unscrupulous to prevent an opponent's dog winning, and a trainer or his friend has to be a sharp man in his line, to run successfully the gauntlet of all that is placed in his way during a match for money where such dogs compete. And it must be confessed that, notwithstanding the fairness, honesty, and firmness of the owners of the enclosed grounds where dog races and coursing take place, and of the umpires and referees, the general spirit of the sport is not the most wholesome in the world. Of course, these remarks are not applicable to all owners of whippets —many of whom are as honest and good sportsmen as ever owned a dog—but there can be no doubt that the popularity of the variety has been kept back by those "black sheep" to whom allusion is made.

As I have said, the whippet ought not to be a big dog, weighing, from 12lb. to say, about 25lb. when in training. However, some of them are much heavier than this, and many of the so-called

champion rabbit coursers reach 40lb. in weight or even more. I have known a thoroughbred greyhound take part in one of the big handicaps that are held during the season in the neighbourhood of Manchester and elsewhere. It scarcely remains for me to say that these bigger dogs are the direct cross with the greyhound, and some of them are built on such lines and contain so much greyhound blood, as to be scarcely distinguishable from the original article.

Such dogs are fast, clever with their teeth, and oftener than not run straight into their rabbit, "holding" it without a turn, the one that does so winning the trial, irrespective of the capacity it shows for working, turning, or making the points as in coursing hares. The law allowed varies from anything between 30 and 70 yards, and directly the rabbit is dropped the dogs are slipped, the latter being done by a skilful man, specially appointed for the purpose. Handicaps are made according to the weight or height of the dog; in Newcastle-on-Tyne and the surrounding districts, the latter being the custom—the dog being measured from the top of the shoulder blade to the pad of the foot—whilst in Lancashire and Yorkshire handicap by weight is preferred. In all cases a dog has to allow a bitch three yards start. These customs or rules likewise

apply to dog racing, as dealt with later on. In some of the more important handicaps, each couple of dogs, as they are drawn together, have to compete the best out of five or even more courses. In minor affairs, one rabbit for each trial is made to suffice.

Private matches between two dogs are frequently run, and such often enough create as much interest as the handicaps, especially when two "cracks" are competing. Here the conditions may vary somewhat, the start given the rabbit bei g specially named, and the number of courses being usually the best of twenty-one, or, perhaps, of thirty-one, a certain time, generally five minutes, being allowed between each trial.

However, if the whippet is to become generally popular, it will not be by means of an ability to kill rabbits. The dog racing by him will be more likely to find favour with the public. Those who are not connected with the sport will be surprised to find the hold it has obtained amongst the working classes in the north. There are repeatedly from one hundred and fifty to over three hundred such dogs entered at one competition, the trial heats of which, three dogs taking part in each heat, being run as a rule one Saturday, the finals the Saturday following. This day is a half-holiday with the miners and workpeople, hence its selection, but other meetings are

held on the recognised Bank holidays, and sometimes on Mondays.

Dogs of all sizes compete in the same stake, they being handicapped according to height or weight, if unknown; otherwise according to their performances, weight, &c., of course, likewise being taken into consideration. The most useful size of the whippet is, probably, a dog scaling about 20lb. or so, and the pace such an one can go for a comparatively short distance is extraordinary, 200 yards having been covered in 12½ seconds. It is generally considered that a dog about 15lb. is the speediest animal in proportion to its weight.

Before these dogs have attained sufficient proficiency to take part in a handicap or match, they must undergo a certain tuition, during which they come to run at their greatest speed. All preliminaries being arranged, the dog makes an appearance at one of the many "running" grounds. Here a course is laid out on the cinder path, the distance usually being 200 yards. At one end the various handicaps are marked out, three start in a heat, and each dog, as in ordinary pedestrianism, has a side allotted to it by draw or otherwise. The starter is behind the dogs, pistol in hand. A friend of the owner holds his dog on the mark, the owners or trainers run in front of their dogs up the course calling

to them, and dangling something attractive—a chicken's or a pigeon's wing, perhaps, or a piece of rag; rabbits or live stock are not allowed. These owners or trainers having reached the limit of the course, the pistol is fired, the dogs are slipped, and at their full pace urge on to the goal where their trainer awaits them. Near there the judge is placed, who quickly and promptly pronounces which dog wins, and so the fun goes on. The rules are stringent to a degree, as all rules ought to be (subject even to no appeal in a court of law), and any man slipping his dog before the pistol is fired is disqualified, not only for that heat, but for the whole stake. The sport is exciting enough, and if it does not attract the thousands that gather to see the "final" of a Sheffield handicap, the attendance is usually quite large enough to be pleasant. I need scarcely say that the training of these running dogs is made a "profession," a skilled man obtaining good pay for his work.

There are dogs that will not run these races to the best of their ability, some preferring to have a growl or fight with an opponent; others, more kindly disposed, seeking to romp and play. To guard against such canine breach of discipline, an arrangement can he made by erecting long strips of canvas, and between each strip a dog runs, thus quite out of

sight of its opponent, until the judge and goal are reached. This plan is frequently adopted, as some of the very best dogs, after competing repeatedly under the ordinary system, become either careless or quarrelsome, and refuse to "try," contenting themselves by running alongside an antagonist, and losing the race by a head, and the owner's weekly wage and more at the same time.

Some time ago, Mr. T. Marples, the present editor of the *British Fancier*, wrote an exhaustive article on coursing and running by whippets. He says that "at times, especially in winter, when snow has to be cleared from the ground which is harder than usual, many of these dogs run in what are called 'stoppers'—leather gloves that are placed over the claws of the fore feet, the latter being apt to be injured by the suddenness with which the dogs stop at the end of the race." These are, of course, only required where the racing is done on a cinder-path, and would be quite out of place on grass during rabbit coursing.

As to handicapping, the same writer tells us that as a rule a dog 15lb. weight is taken as the basis of the handicap, and he is given or takes three yards, according to size, irrespective of the allowance for sex alluded to earlier on. However, when the dogs "reach about 27lb. in weight, they are pretty much

equalised, just as an increase is given to small dogs down to about 8lb. in weight. For instance, a dog of 15lb. would give one of 14lb. three yards start; but one of 13lb. would receive seven yards from the 15lb. dog, and in all likelihood a 10lb. dog would receive from eighteen to twenty yards in the two hundred. Then in turn the 15lb. dog would receive three yards from the 16lb. animal, and from one up to 20lb. the 15lb. dog would receive ten or twelve yards start," irrespective, of course, of penalties for previous successes. Novices are usually given an advantage of about 2lb.

The above seems a somewhat complicated arrangement, but it is thoroughly understood by the handicappers.

I need scarcely say that these whippets when in training are fed on the best food that can be provided; they are kept warm, sleep in the house in a cozy corner, and are muzzled and sheeted when outside. Their owners are for the most part working men, and instances are not isolated where their wives and children have gone with empty stomachs, whilst the dogs and their masters regale on rump steaks and chump chops.

Perhaps it may be mentioned that during the past twenty years or so the sport with "running dogs" and "rabbit coursers," as conducted in the north,

has flourished amazingly, and personally I regret that it has done so to the detriment of the more manly pedestrian exercises, wrestling, and the clever game of knur and spell.

The points and general description of the whippet are, excepting so far as size is concerned, identical with those of the greyhound as they appear on a preceding page, though occasionally comparatively rough coated or wire-haired whippets are met with. Such, of course, show breeding back to the wire haired terrier, or perhaps to some cross-bred "lurcher," a few of which are still kept for poaching purposes in various parts of the country. Need I mention that for rabbit coursing staying power as well as pace is required in a whippet, whilst for racing speed alone is the desideratum.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER X.

THE GREAT DANE.

HERE is a dog, not an English animal, but one thoroughly acclimatized to the rigours of our climate, and fairly naturalised. Still, it seems as it were only the other day (it is twenty-four years ago) that Mr. Walsh refused to give it a place in the first edition of his "Dogs of the British Isles," which Mr. F. Adcock then requested him to do.

I do not think that this dog (under which name, following the Great Dane Club's good example, I include boarhounds, German mastiffs, and tiger mastiffs) has made great progress here. Ten years since he appeared in a fair way to become a favourite. The ladies took him up, the men patronised him, but the former could not always keep him in hand. Handsome and symmetrical though he may be, he had always a temper and disposition of his own, which could not be controlled when he became excited. Personally, I never considered the Great Dane suitable as a companion

or as a domestic dog. He might act as a watch or guard tied up in the yard, or, may be, could be utilised in hunting big game, or in being hunted by it in return, but he always seemed out of place following a lady or gentleman. When the order was in force in London and elsewhere, commanding all dogs to be muzzled or led on a chain, the Great Dane received a severe blow. Muzzling amazed him, and made him savage, the restraint of chain or lead was not to be borne. The dog pulled; his fair mistress had either to free him from the chain or be overpowered. She did the former, and her unmanageable pet chevied a terrier across the road, and the mischief was done.

In that suburb in which I reside the Dane was numerous enough before the rabies scare and the muzzling order. He could not be confined with safety, so he had to be got rid of, and where once a dozen boarhounds reigned not one is now to be seen. This is, I think, an advantage few owners of dogs find fault with, for he, when not under control, was fond of fighting, and his immense strength and power gave him a great advantage over any other dog. Some twenty years or so ago, in the ring at a provincial show in Lancashire, Mr. Adcock's then celebrated Great Dane, called Satan, got at loggerheads with a Newfoundland, and the latter, poor

thing, was shaken like a rat, and would soon have ceased to live, excepting in memory, had not three strong, stout men choked off the immense German dog.

This was about the time he was being introduced to this country, or may be, rather, re-introduced, for I am one who believes that a hundred years ago there was in Ireland a Great Dane, not a wolfhound proper, but an actual Great Dane, just as he is known to-day. Hence the confusion that has arisen between the two varieties. From old paintings and old writings there is no difficulty in making out this dog to be as old as any of the race of canines that we possess, but as he is brought forward here as a British dog, his history before he became such would be out of place.

Amongst our earliest specimens of the race, Satan, already named, must take a leading place, though his temper was so bad. He was a heavily made, dark coloured dog, with a strong head and jaw, that would not be at all suitable for the present admirers of the variety. However, his owner, Mr. F. Adcock, was an enthusiast, and by his patronage of the dog, and his subsequent establishment of a Great Dane Club, did more than any other man to bring the strain permanently before the British public.

It was not, however, until 1884, that special classes were provided for them at Birmingham;

the Kennel Club had acknowledged them in their stud book the same year. However, at both places he, a year previously, had classes given him, but as a "boarhound," and since, with his name changed to "Great Dane," "boarhounds" and "German mastiffs" have become creatures of the past.

I have a note of a big black and white dog, shown by Sir Roger Palmer, about 1863 or 1864, which was said to be 35 inches at the shoulder, 200lb. weight, and a Great Dane! I never saw a dog of this variety approaching this size, and at that time, a two hundred pound weight dog had not been produced. Satan himself, a very heavy dog, would not be more than, perhaps, 150lb. at most.

Coming a little later, we find that in June, 1885, a dog show, devoted entirely to Great Danes, was held at the Ranelagh Club Grounds, near London. This was just at the time when the animal was reaching the height of his popularity here, and a noble show the sixty hounds, benched under the lime trees in those historic grounds, made. Never has such a collection of the variety been seen since in our island, and, need I say, never such a one previously. The great fawn dog, Cedric the Saxon, was there, perfect in symmetry, and a large dog; carefully measured, he stood $33\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the shoulder. With Captain Graham, I took the heights of several of these big

dogs on that occasion, and it was extraordinary how the thirty-five and thirty-six inch animals dwindled down, some of them nearly half a foot at a time.

The tallest and heaviest dogs we made a careful note of were Mr. Reginald Herbert's dog Leal, who stood $33\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the shoulders, and weighed 182lb.; M. Riego's brindled dog, Cid Campeador, who stood exactly $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and his weight was 175lb. This couple were the tallest dogs of their race I have ever known, and height is a great consideration in the breed, the club's standard being from 30 inches to 35 inches for a dog, and from 28 inches to 33 inches for a bitch.

It would appear that, within the last eighty years or so, considerable improvement must have been made in the size and power of the Great Dane. Sydenham Edwards, who wrote of him in 1803, said he was usually about twenty-eight inches in height, though, occasionally, he would be found thirty-one inches. The same writer goes on to describe him: "Ears, usually cropped; eyes, in some, white, in others yellow, or half white or yellow. A beautiful variety, called the Harlequin Dane, has a finely marked body, with large or small spots of black, grey, liver colour, or sandy-red, upon a white ground. . . . The grand figure, bold, muscular action, and elegant carriage of the Dane, would recommend him to

notice, had he no useful properties; and thus we find him honoured in adding to the pomp of the noble or wealthy, before whose carriage he trots or gallops in a fine style; not noisy, but of approved dignity, becoming his intrepid character, he keeps his stall in silence." Edwards further says this dog must be muzzled, to prevent him attacking his own species.

Contrary to the above statement we have that of Richardson, who, writing about 1848, says the Great Dane is a dog of gigantic stature, standing from thirty to thirty-two inches in height at the shoulders, or even more. He says the ears are short, and drop down very gracefully. At the present time they are big, and hang down in a fashion so ungainly, that it is the custom to crop them, an operation that may be best performed when the puppies are about three weeks old, and when suckling their dam. One large breeder, Mr. E. H. Adcock, has followed this custom successfully, and the wounds are soon healed by the contact of a mother's tongue. Others "crop" their puppies when three or four months old, some still later, when the dog is more matured, say at eight or nine months, but at that time it is a nasty job, and a terribly unpleasant one, to him who takes it in hand.

Perhaps it is the custom of having these dogs

shorn of part of their ears that has led to their, comparatively speaking, non-popularisation, for it is difficult to find proficient operators, who run the risk of fine or imprisonment if the cruelty they perpetrate is brought to the notice of the authorities.

A few years ago, I was attending one of the Crystal Palace dog shows, and engaged in conversation with a man, well known as a skilful performer on the ears of terriers and other dogs. Walking past the benches where the Danes were chained, we were startled by a terrible growl and furious lunge, a huge brindled dog springing up and making violent attempts to reach the man to whom I was talking. Luckily for him the chain and collar and staple held. I never saw so much ferocity depicted on the face of any animal whatever as there was on the countenance of that Great Dane. It would have been bad for that man had it got loose. Need it be said, we soon gave it a wide berth. "What was the meaning of that?" said I to the fellow, who was, in reality, very much frightened and shaken by the occurrence. "Well," said he, "I know the dog, he was badly 'cropped,' and about five months ago, Mr. ——— called me down to his place to 'perform' on his ears again. We had a terrible job with him, and I guess the dog just recognised me, and wanted

to have his revenge. I shall have nothing more to do with cropping 'boarhounds' again," continued the whilom operator, "nor do I think I shall go near his bench; no, not if I knows it!"

I fancy from the above, and other experiences that I have gained, that no other variety of dog possesses the same strength of mind, and is so ready to resent a supposed injury as he. It is dangerous to thrash some of them; they may turn on you, or will surlily growl; and in fighting with any opponent they are not always able to discriminate between the hands of their master (who may be interfering in the combat) and the throat of an opponent. Still, they are faithful and intelligent, and many of them are thoroughly trustworthy when their master is about—not always in his absence. He possesses great power and activity, and is usually most symmetrically built. Sometimes he makes a good water dog, at others he will not swim a yard.

As we know him here as a companion and a guard only, no more than passing allusion need be made to him as a sporting dog, to hunt the wild boar and chase the deer. That he was used for these purposes long before he came to be a house dog there is no manner of doubt, for his portrait can be recognised in all the great pictures of hunting scenes that took place in the Middle Ages.

This is the reason I place him in the group of Sporting Dogs.

That he is thoroughly amenable to discipline I found some few years ago, in 1884, during a visit to the Oxford Music Hall, in London. Here Mr. Fred. Felix, a well-known trainer, had a group of performing dogs, which included three Great Danes, and all good specimens, especially the best trick dog in the lot, who no doubt gloried in his name of Grandmaster. These dogs went through a variety of performances in an extraordinarily kindly and willing manner, jumping through hoops, walking on their hind legs, sitting on chairs, jumping over each other's backs, with all the docility and more of the freedom than the poodle would have shown.

Grandmaster made some astounding leaps, and two of the hounds had a miniature fight, growling, seizing each other, and rolling on the stage as they might have done in a less friendly strife. The latter was a performance I have not since seen attempted, and must be a most difficult thing for a trainer to accomplish. I do not know when I was better pleased with a troup of performing dogs than I was with these Great Danes. I have seen other showmen performing with them in a cage of lions, and similar dogs formed a portion of "a happy family" of wild beasts that a year or

two ago proved a great attraction at the Crystal Palace.

As special attention has been called to the Great Dane as a companion, allusion to that dog belonging to Prince Bismarck may not be out of place; still Tyras, the dog, was, in his palmy days, not a very much greater favourite than his master came to be later on. Maybe, the happiness of two countries was on at least one occasion placed in jeopardy by the action of the German Chancellor's hound. It has been said that a somewhat spirited conversation was proceeding between Bismarck and the Russian Prime Minister Gortschakoff. The latter, gesticulating rather more violently than usual, led Tyras, who lay reposing on the rug, to suspect an attack on his master, so, springing at the proud Russian, he brought him to the floor. Apologies were profuse and accepted. Prince Gortschakoff was not bitten, only frightened, and the peace of Europe remained undisturbed.

A writer in the *Kennel Gazette* gives the following interesting description of Prince Bismarck's favourite dog, and I reproduce it here, and it will assist my readers in arriving at the character and disposition of the ordinary Great Dane:

Of all the dogs that have a place in history, Tyras, the noted realm dog of the German Chancellor, is the only one whose death

has been deemed of sufficient interest to be cabled round the world as an event, not merely of European, but of cosmopolitan interest. Indeed, the record of Tyras hardly ended with his life, for the cable has since told the world that the first visitor to Prince Bismarck on his recent birthday was the youthful emperor, who brought as a present another dog, of the type of the lamented Tyras. For nearly sixty years Prince Bismarck has owned specimens of the Great Dane, and generally has had one or more of unusual size. His first hound, acquired while living with his parents at Kniephof, was one of the largest ever seen, and was an object of awe to the peasantry of the district. This dog afterward accompanied his young master to the college at Göttingen, where he speedily made his mark. Once when Bismarck was summoned to appear before the rector for throwing an empty bottle out of his window, he took with him his enormous hound, to the great dismay of the reverend dignitary, who promptly took refuge behind a high-backed chair, where he remained until the hound had been sent out of the room. Bismarck was fined five thalers for bringing this "terrific beast" into the rector's sanctum, in addition to the punishment meted out to the original offence. As a law student and official at Berlin, during his travels in many lands, throughout his diplomatic career at Frankfort, St. Petersburgh, Paris, and elsewhere, as well as at Varzin and at Friedrichsruh, Bismarck has always had the companionship of one or more of his favourite dogs. Probably the one to which he was most attached was Sultan, which died at Varzin in 1877. Tyras, who was of unusual size, and of the slate colour, which is most popular in Germany, was then quite a young dog, and he was the constant companion of his illustrious owner till the time of his death, sharing his walks, his rides, his business, and his meals, and keeping guard in his bedroom at night. Owing to his uncertain temper, he was not often seen in the streets or gardens of Berlin.

He was, indeed, regarded more as belonging to the "Pomeranian Squire" side of the Prince's life than to his official establishment. At Varzin or Friedrichsruh, however, the two were inseparable.

No sooner was the most absolutely necessary business of the morning dispatched, than the Reichskanzler sallied off with the "Reichshund" at his heels, and for the rest of the day, the long light coat, and the battered felt hat of the famous statesman, were not greater objects of interest than the huge dog which followed him everywhere, on horseback or on foot.

At the present time the best Great Danes in England are owned by Mr. Reginald Herbert, Mr. E. W. Adcock, Mr. M. Riego, Mr. C. D. Baddeley, Mr. R. Coop, Mr. J. E. Wilbey, Mr. Adolph Stolte, Mr. R. T. Martin, and some few others. He is not in many hands, and, although the entries in the Kennel Club's stud book keep up their members very well, the Great Dane Club itself has but twenty-seven members, though at its establishment, in 1884, it had thirty-eight members on its books. However, now there is a ladies' branch in connection therewith, and here there are eleven members additional.

Perhaps the best all-round Great Dane we have had here was the brindled bitch Vendetta, first exhibited by Mr. Reginald Herbert, and sold by him to Mr. Craven for a large sum. She was not a particularly big bitch, though perhaps taller and heavier than she looked by reason of her lovely symmetry. She stood 31½ inches at the shoulder and weighed 140lb.; but in general form and correctness of type of head, without lippiness or hound-like appearance,

she was pretty nearly perfect. Windle Princess (Mr. Coop's) is another beautiful bitch, and again not a very big one. Mr. Adcock's Ivanhoe, a very richly coloured brindle dog, has repeatedly and deservedly won prizes at our leading shows. Mr. Wilbey's Hannibal the Great is thought to be the best of his year, an enormous animal of immense power, but perhaps a little heavier and too mastiff-like in head to quite please some of our insular prejudices. He came to this country with a reputation as the best of his race in the land of his birth, which was Germany. This dog unfortunately got strangled in his kennel in August, 1892. Other good dogs are War Cry, Corsica, Harlequin Nero, Bouchan, Sea King, Leal, the Baron of Danes, Norseman, Queen of Saxony, Uric, Windle Princess, Gretchen, Earl of Warwick, and Windle Queen.

As to the heights and weights of recent winners, the following may, perhaps, not be without interest:—Norseman is 33 inches at the shoulders, weight, 155lb.; Sea King, $32\frac{1}{2}$ inches, weight, 168lb.; Leal, $33\frac{3}{4}$ inches, weight, 182lb.; Young Leal, $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches, weight, 154lb.; Prince Victor, 33 inches and 150lb. weight; Cedric the Saxon, $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches and 170lb. weight; Baron of Danes, $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches and 155lb. weight; Ivanhoe, 33 inches and 168lb. weight; Dorothy, $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 125lb. weight; Challymead

Queen, 30½ inches and 125lb. weight; Corsica, 31 inches and 140lb. weight; Ranee 29 inches, 105lb. weight.

The following description of the Great Dane is issued by the Club, and, further, there is a rule which ought, perhaps, to appear in the standard of points. It says that any dog or bitch with a cankered mouth, a joint or any part of the tail removed, is incapable of taking a prize; and no Great Dane answering to this description shall be exhibited "for competition" by any member of the club.

I do not know that Danes are more afflicted with "cankered" mouths than any other dog; but, with respect to the "tails," cases have occurred where a dog has had a joint or two amputated, in order that the appendage did not curl at the end. The sore or bare place remaining was accounted for by the hound dashing his tail against the kennel walls or benches, a habit which frequently causes trouble to the caudal extremity of some big smooth-coated dogs.

Standard of Points.

1. *General Appearance.*—The Great Dane is not so heavy or massive as the mastiff, nor should he too nearly approach the greyhound in type. Remark-

able in size, and very muscular, strongly though elegantly built, movements easy and graceful; head and neck carried high; the tail carried horizontally with the back, or slightly upwards, with a slight curl at the extremity. The minimum height and weight of dogs should be 30 inches and 120lb.; of bitches, 28 inches and 100lb. Anything below this shall be debarred from competition. Points: General appearance, 3; Condition, 3; Activity, 5; Height, 13.

2. *Head.*—Long, the frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised, and very little indentation between the eyes. Skull, not too broad. Muzzle, broad and strong, and blunt at the point. Cheek muscles, well developed. Nose, large, bridge well arched. Lips in front perpendicularly blunted, not hanging too much over the sides, though with well-defined folds at the angle of the mouth. The lower jaw slightly projecting—about a sixteenth of an inch. Eyes, small round, with sharp expression and deeply set. Ears, very small and greyhound-like in carriage, when uncropped; they are, however, usually cropped. Points, 15.

3. *Neck.*—Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap, or loose skin about the throat. The junction of head and neck strongly pronounced. Points, 5.

4. *Chest.*—Not too broad, and very deep in brisket. Points, 8.

5. *Back.*—Not too long or short; loins arched, and falling in a beautiful line to the insertion of the tail. Points, 8.

6. *Tail.*—Reaching to the hock, strong at the root, and ending fine with a slight curve. When excited it becomes more curved, but in no case should it curve over the back. Points, 4.

7. *Belly.*—Well drawn up. Points, 4.

8. *Fore-quarters.* Shoulders, set sloping; elbows well under, neither turned inwards nor outwards. Leg: Fore-arm, muscular, and with great development of bone, the whole leg strong and quite straight. Points, 10.

9. *Hind-quarters.*—Muscular thighs, and second thigh long and strong, as in the greyhound, and hocks well let down and turning neither in nor out. Points, 10.

10. *Feet.*—Large and round, neither turned inwards nor outwards. Toes, well arched and closed. Nails, very strong and curved. Points, 8.

11. *Hair.*—Very short, hard and dense, and not much longer on the underpart of the tail. Points, 4.

Colour and Markings.—The recognised colours are the various shades of grey (commonly termed

"blue"), red, black, or pure white, or white with patches of the before-mentioned colours. These colours are sometimes accompanied with markings of a darker tint about the eyes and muzzle, and with a line of the same tint (called a "trace") along the course of the spine. The above ground colours also appear in the brindles, and are also the ground colours of the mottled specimens. In the whole-coloured specimens, the china or wall eye but rarely appears, and the nose more or less approaches black, according to the prevailing tint of the dog, and the eyes vary in colour also. The mottled specimens have irregular patches or "clouds" upon the above-named ground colours; in some instances the clouds or markings being of two or more tints. With the mottled specimens, the wall or china eye is not uncommon, and the nose is often parti-coloured or wholly flesh-coloured.

Faults.—Too heavy a head, too highly arched frontal bone, and deep "stop" or indentation between the eyes; large ears and hanging flat to the face; short neck; full dewlap; too narrow or too broad a chest; sunken or hollow or quite straight back; bent fore-legs; overbent fetlocks; twisted feet; spreading toes; too heavy and much bent, or too highly carried tail, or with a brush underneath; weak hind-quarters and a general want of muscle.

STANDARD OF POINTS.

	Value.		Value.
General appearance	3	Belly	4
Condition	3	Tail	4
Activity	5	Fore-quarters	10
Head	15	Hind-quarters	10
Neck	5	Feet	8
Chest	8	Coat	4
Back	8	Size (Height)	13
	47		53

Grand Total **100.**

Scale of Points for Height divided as follows:

Dog of 30 in., or Bitch of 28 in.				Points	0
„ 31 in.	„	29 in.		„	2
„ 32 in.	„	30 in.		„	4
„ 33 in.	„	31 in.		„	6
„ 34 in.	„	32 in.		„	9
„ 35 in.	„	33 in.		„	13

CHAPTER XI.

THE IRISH WOLFHOUND.

SOME there are who believe that this historical hound became extinct soon after the last wolf was killed in Ireland, which happened in 1710. Others hold the opinion that it never became extinct at all; but survives in the Scotch deerhound, with which they say it was identical. A third division have equally strong opinions, something between the two, which are to the effect that so recently as eighty or ninety years ago very few real Irish wolfhounds remained, and these not readily traceable back to the oldest strains. Others advocate the smooth greyhound as the true article. Then, to complicate matters still further, the Great Dane has become mixed up in the controversy. There is no doubt that at one time or another this big dog has passed himself off to the believing and credulous inhabitants of the Emerald Isle as their own beloved native dog, and, as a fact, many authorities of the past generation write to prove that the Irish

wolfhound was, if not a Great Dane, a smooth-coated creature very like him ; and additional evidence that such was the case is to be found in the following instance.

Some four years or so ago, I was shown by the Earl of Antrim a life-sized painting of an enormous hound which had been in his family for about a hundred years. Through generations this had been handed down as a true Irish wolfhound, a noble creature that had saved the life of one of his lordship's ancestors under peculiar and extraordinary circumstances, so the faithful creature had its portrait painted. Now this dog was a huge southern hound in appearance, marked like a modern foxhound, with long pendulous ears, possibly an animal identical with the matin of old writers. The painting gave the idea that the subject had, in life, stood about thirty-four inches high at the shoulders.

It was but natural, when I introduced this interesting discovery to the public through the columns of the *Field*, that discussion and controversy thereon would arise, and such was the case. Little new material as to the history of the Irish dog was elicited, and it was to be regretted that Lord Antrim could afford no further particulars as to the animal to which attention was first drawn.

One might have expected to find something

reliable and convincing as to what the Irish wolfhound really was in the "Sportsman's Cabinet," published in 1803. Here we have an excellent engraving from a picture by Reinagle, of a huge dog, an enormous deerhound in fact, the identical creature popular reputation stated such a dog to be. Unfortunately the letterpress describes quite a different animal—more of the Great Dane type than of the deerhound. And so the authorities who wrote at that time differed quite as much on the matter as do the admirers of the race at the present time.

To Captain Graham, of Dursley, in Gloucestershire, we owe considerable gratitude for the trouble he has taken to resuscitate the Irish wolfhound. Enthusiast though he be, he is not like so many other enthusiasts, led away to say things he cannot prove, or, indeed, to lay claim to his hounds being descended in a direct line from those animals which may have or may not have killed the last wolf near Dingle over 180 years ago. The gallant gentleman acknowledges that the breed in its original integrity has disappeared, but he believed, when first writing on the subject twenty years ago, that so much of the true strain remained that, with the aid of the modern deerhound, and with judicious management, the breed in its "pristine grandeur" could be recovered.

The difficulty, to my mind, would be to exactly define the original Irish wolfhound. The popular idea—and this is not always correct—was of a big powerful dog, with a wire-haired or rough coat, built on the lines of a deerhound, but altogether a heavier and stronger animal. What height a full-grown specimen should be there is a diversity of opinion. Old writers have said he was as big as a donkey; others that he stood from 36 inches to 40 inches at the shoulders. In the museum of the Royal Dublin Society there are two skulls of wolfhounds dug out of barrows by the late Dr. Wilde. The dimensions of them have been very useful to those who believed in the bigness of the wolfhound. Unfortunately for the side of the latter, these skulls, when carefully measured and compared with others of living dogs, deerhounds, wolfhounds, and greyhounds, could not have been possessed by animals more than 29 inches high at the shoulders.

However, it is not my province here to say what kind of an animal the historical Irish deerhound was, whether there were two, three, or four varieties, or whether any dog that would tackle and hunt a wolf was, from the moment he did so, called a wolfhound. This would only be similar to what occurs in our own days; for have we not the ordinary fox-

hound called a staghound or a buckhound when he is entered to hunt the deer?

Mr. G. W. Hickman, of Birmingham, has written most exhaustively and carefully on the subject on one side; so have Mr. H. Richardson, Captain Graham, Mr. R. D. O'Brien, Limerick, and others on another side. I have to deal with "modern dogs," and so the wolfhound, as he is now resuscitated, must be described by me. There is no doubt that by careful crossing between certain dogs obtained from Ireland about 1841 with the deerhound and the Great Dane, an animal of a certain distinctive type has been obtained, which, in its turn, breeds perhaps quite as truly, up to a certain standard, as most other canine varieties. Captain Graham, who must be said to be the chief supporter of the modern variety, says that his own strain "he can trace back to those had by Richardson in 1841-42, though not beyond 1862 from father to son. He says the breed had been kept up by Mr. Baker, of Badylohm Castle, and Sir John Power, of Kilfane, from 1840 to 1865, or thereabouts. He further says that on good grounds it was believed that "these dogs were descended from Hamilton Rowan's, so called, last of his race, Bran by name, a fine dark grey, rough hound that was his constant companion." Captain Graham had a grandson of Kilfane Oscar, a dog

he obtained from Sir Ralph Payne-Galwey, and from this he traces the purity of the blood as far back as it will go. He advocated a cross with the Great Dane and deerhound, and latterly, on the popularisation of the Borzoi or Russian wolfhound, has suggested a third cross with that variety.

He, at the time I write, has a litter of eleven puppies by the Borzoi, Korotai, from his wolfhound bitch Banshee, but whether such a cross is desirable is an open question, and the Irish wolfhound would, I fancy, have found greater favour with the public had the original Great Dane and deerhound blood not been departed from.

Some of the Irish wolfhounds seen at modern exhibitions are extremely fine animals, docile and quiet as they recline on their benches, and by no means quarrelsome, evidently quite contented with their lot. Indeed, they possess an excellent reputation as companions, especially such as are not the first cross between the two modern varieties already alluded to.

Never having been the fortunate possessor of any Irish wolfhounds, and being desirous of obtaining the best information about them as companions, I wrote to a friend who at times had kept two or three of them, and who would gladly give me his opinion. That friend says the Irish wolfhound is

very good with children, is the best domestic pet of any big dog, and none more useful in a quiet country place. He never had a case of anyone being bitten by his Irish dogs, though, from their size and appearance, they are a great deterrent to bad characters and the tramping fraternity generally. Some of the strains that contain the Great Dane first cross are not quite of the same disposition as the others, being not nearly so dignified in their demeanour, and inclined to steal whenever an opportunity is afforded them so to do. They are exuberantly affectionate, seldom at rest a moment, but still not quarrelsome. The finer strains are generally more lethargic, stately, and sedate; strong in their attachments to an individual, and extremely quiet and good-tempered with other dogs; the latter often approaching to softness. Still, when roused and angry, they can give a good account of themselves, and punish their enemy severely. In no degree are they so quarrelsome as many of the deerhounds of the present day.

This is not a bad character at all for a dog that is to be made an every-day companion either in town or country; and certainly, so far as I have studied and noticed the variety, I must agree with the excellent testimonial the Irish wolfhound receives from one who has kept him for half a generation.

This dog has been recommended as likely to be useful with "big game," not elephants and hippopotami, but with wolves, hyenas, and such inferior animals as are to be found in South Africa and other great hunting countries. Whether they would do so well as either the pure Dane or the deerhound is an open question. They are not sufficiently smart and active to cope successfully with powerful beasts of prey, though perhaps, if brought up to the work and at an early age trained to hunt, they would be able to do as well as any other breed of dog. But it is folly for a young fellow to obtain a hound of any of these varieties—Great Dane, deerhound, or Irish wolfhound—from some of the show kennels, rush him over to the Cape, on into the interior of Africa, and expect him to take as kindly to hunt "the king of the forest" or the leopard as he would to accepting a biscuit from the hand of some fair mistress. An Irish wolfhound requires to be properly entered to game just as carefully as do the pointer, setter, and retriever; and generations passed in kennels or in the drawing-room have no tendency to improve him as a destroyer of wild animals when they come in his way.

A modern Irish wolfhound is in appearance just a big and rather coarse deerhound, and, previous to giving his description as drawn up by the Wolfhound

Club, the following statistics of the height and weight of some of the best specimens will perhaps not be without interest :—Captain Graham's Brian, figured in "Dogs of the British Isles," stood 30½ inches at the shoulder and weighed 128lb.; Dhulart was 31 inches at the shoulder and 126lb. weight; Bamtree, 29¾ inches and 101lb. weight; Mask, 30¼ inches, and 106lb. weight; Tara, 29 inches and about 100lb.; Fintragh, 29¾ inches and 110lb. weight. Colonel Garnier showed a particularly fine young dog at the Kennel Club's Show at Islington in 1888, which unfortunately died soon after the exhibition. The hound, called Merlin, stood 33 inches at the shoulders, and, though unfurnished, scaled 150lb. He was fawn in colour, and undoubtedly the finest specimen of the race I have seen or has yet appeared at any of our shows.

It is rather unfortunate that so fine a dog has not attracted popular fancy. Had it done so, there would have been as much a run on the Irish wolfhound as there has been on other and perhaps less deserving varieties. The club to look after its interests is fairly successful, but there is a sad lack of enterprise amongst the general public. Even the natives of the Emerald Isle themselves have refused to answer the call, and, as a rule, the prizes at Dublin for the national breed of dogs are swept away by the Saxon

invader. Their terrier they patronise, but neglect the wolfhound and the Kerry beagle. Had it not been for an Englishman, Captain Graham, this canine relic of a mighty race might even now be extinct. To prevent its becoming so, earnest admirers of the dog, such as he with Colonel Garnier, Mr. Hood Wright, Newton-le-Willows; the Rev. H. L. O'Brien, Limerick; Mr. Bailey, Mr. F. D. George, Cheltenham; Mr. G. E. Crisp, Mr. Playford, Ipswich; Mr. S. R. Heap, West Derby; and some few others, do their best, and usually possess some few specimens of the article as genuine as it can be obtained. Most of the bigger shows provide classes for Irish wolfhounds, but the competition therein is never strong, and the chief prizes are usually taken by one or other of the gentlemen to whom allusion has been made. A dog has either to save a life or to take one, before he can ensure any amount of popularity, and the Irish wolfhound has not yet done either in his modern form.

The following is the description of the variety as drawn up by the Club:

1. *General appearance.*—The Irish wolfhound should not be quite so heavy or massive as the Great Dane, but more so than the deerhound, which in general type he should otherwise resemble. Of great size and commanding appearance, very mus-

cular, strongly though gracefully built; movements easy and active; head and neck carried high; the tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity. The minimum height and weight of dogs should be 31in. and 120lb.; of bitches 28in. and 90lb. Anything below this should be debarred from competition. Great size, including height at shoulder and proportionate length of body, is the desideratum to be aimed at, and it is desired to firmly establish a race that shall average from 32in. to 34in. in dogs, showing the requisite power, activity, courage, and symmetry.

2. *Head.*—Long, the frontal bones of the forehead *very* slightly raised, and *very* little indentation between the eyes. Skull, not too broad. Muzzle, long and moderately pointed. Ears, small and greyhound-like in carriage.

3. *Neck.*—Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about the throat.

4. *Chest.*—Very deep. Breast, wide.

5. *Back.*—Rather long than short. Loins, arched.

6. *Tail.*—Long and slightly curved, of moderate thickness, and well covered with hair.

7. *Beily.*—Well drawn up.

8. *Fore-quarters.*—Shoulders, muscular, giving

breadth of chest, set sloping. Elbows, well under, neither turned inwards nor outwards. *Leg.*—Fore-arm muscular, and the whole leg strong and quite straight.

9. *Hind-quarters.*—Muscular thighs, and second thigh long and strong as in the greyhound, and hocks well let down and turning neither in nor out.

10. *Feet.*—Moderately large and round, neither turned inwards nor outwards. Toes well arched and closed. Nails, very strong and curved.

11. *Hair.*—Rough and hard on body, legs, and head; especially wiry and long over eyes and under jaw.

12. *Colour and markings.*—The recognised colours are grey, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn, or any colour that appears in the deerhound.

13. *Faults.*—Too light or heavy a head, too highly arched frontal bone; large ears and hanging flat to the face; short neck; full dewlap; too narrow or too broad a chest; sunken or hollow or quite straight back; bent fore-legs; overbent fetlocks; twisted feet; spreading toes; too curly a tail; weak hind-quarters and a general want of muscle; too short in body.

CHAPTER XII.

THE BORZOI OR RUSSIAN WOLFHOUND.

THERE is no dog of modern times that has so rapidly attained a certain degree of popularity as that which is named at the head of this chapter. Three years ago it was comparatively unknown in England; now all well-regulated and comprehensive dog shows give a class or classes for him, which are usually well filled, and cause quite as much interest as those of our own varieties. Indeed, the Borzoi is a noble hound, powerful and muscular in appearance, still possessing a pleasant and sweet expression, that tells how kindly his nature is. He is one of the aristocratic varieties of the canine race, and the British public is to be congratulated on its discernment in annexing him from the Russian kennels, where, too, his reputation is of the highest.

In the early days of our dog shows Borzois, then known as Siberian and Russian wolfhounds, and by other names, too, occasionally appeared on the benches. Most of them were exactly similar in

type to those we see now, and no doubt have a common origin with the ordinary Eastern or Circassian greyhound, occasionally met with in this country. But the latter were usually smaller and less powerful than their Russian relative. According to the "Kennel Club Stud Book" a class for "Russian deerhounds" was provided at the National dog show held at the Crystal Palace in 1871. This was not the case, but a foreign variety class was composed almost entirely of Russian hounds, and one of them, Mr. S. G. Holland's Tom won the first prize. Lady Emily Peel and Mr. Macdona were exhibitors at the same show.

It will be more than twenty-five years since the Czar of Russia presented the Prince of Wales with a couple of his favourite hounds, Molodetz and Owdalzka. These his Royal Highness exhibited on more than one occasion, and bred from them likewise. Mr. Cumming Macdona had one of the puppies, his Czar being a particularly handsome specimen. Then Mr. Taprell Holland, in 1872, showed an excellent hound in the variety class at Birmingham, for which he obtained a prize. Even before this, specimens of the Borzoi (then called Siberian Wolfhounds) were met with on the benches at Curzon Hall. In 1867, Mr. J. Wright, of Derby, had one called Nijni; and three years

later the same exhibitor benched an excellent example of the race in Cossack, a grandson of Molodetz, already mentioned as having belonged to the Prince of Wales, and being from the Imperial kennels. Perhaps the earliest appearance of all on the bench was in 1863, when the then Duchess of Manchester showed a very big dog of the variety at Islington, and bred by Prince William of Prussia. I have the authority of Captain G. A. Graham for stating that this hound was 31 inches at the shoulders, quite equal in size, as he was in power, to some of the best specimens now on our shores.

Thus, after all, this fine race of dog is not quite such a modern institution in our country as would be imagined, though the earlier strains, I fancy, must have been lost, possibly on account of the inter-breeding consequent on an inability to obtain a change of blood. Communication between the eastern and western divisions of Europe is much more rapid and easier of accomplishment than in the early days of dog shows.

Advancing a few years, Lady Charles Kerr occasionally sent some of these Russian hounds to the exhibitions, but most of them were small and somewhat light and weedy—far from such powerful animals as the best that are with us to-day, and

even they in height do not reach that of the late Duchess of Manchester, and already alluded to. Of course, long before this, the dog, in all his prime and power, was to be found in most kennels of the Russian nobles. Some of them had strains of their own, treasured in their families for years. Such were mostly used for wolf-hunting, sometimes for the fox and deer, and bred with sufficient strength and speed to cope with the wolf—not, indeed, to worry him and kill him, but, as a rule, to seize and hold him until the hunters came up.

In 1884 a couple of Borzoi, which even then we only knew as Russian wolfhounds, were performing on a music-hall stage in London, in company with a leash of Great Danes. The latter were, however, the cleverer "canine artistes," though the former the handsomer and more popular animals. I fancy their disposition is too sedate to make them eminent on the boards, something like that of the St. Bernard or ordinary Highland deerhound, neither of which we have yet seen attempting to emulate the deeds of trained poodles and terriers in turning somersaults and going backwards up a ladder.

A correspondent, writing to the *Field* in 1887, gives the following description of the Borzoi, and it

is so applicable to him at the present time as to be worth reproducing here. He says this

Is one of the noblest of all dogs, and in Russia he is considered the very noblest, and valued accordingly. Like all things noble that are genuine, he is rare; and, like many other highly-bred creatures, the genuine Borzoi is, from in-breeding, becoming rarer every year. By crossing, however, with the deerhound and other suitable breeds, the race will no doubt be kept alive with stained lineage.

From the earliest times, the great families of Russia have bred the Borzoi jealously against each other for the purpose of wolfhunting, but there are now few really good kennels of the breed. There are, I believe, various kinds of Borzois—the smooth, the short-tailed, &c.—but by far the handsomest, and the only one of which I have personal knowledge, is the rough-haired, long-tailed strain. Of these I have seen but very few good specimens in England, and in fact have seen prizes given at shows to very inferior specimens entered in the foreign class under this name. The true Borzoi is shaped like a Scotch deerhound, but is a much more powerful dog. In height he should be from 26in. to 32in., with limbs showing great strength, combined with terrific speed power. Indeed, their speed is greater than that of an English greyhound. This quality is clearly shown by the long drooping quarters, hocks well let down close to the ground, and arched loins of such power and breadth as to give the dog almost a hunched appearance. The coat is silky, with a splendid frill round the neck, well-feathered legs, and a tail beautifully fringed on the under side. The carriage of the tail is peculiar, as it is almost tucked between the hind legs, so straight down does it hang until at the end it curls slightly outwards with a graceful sweep; but this, like the bang tail of the thoroughbred racehorse, adds to the beauty of the quarters. The depth of these dogs through the heart is quite extraordinary, giving them, with their enormous strength of loin, a very powerful appearance, and

it seems strange that they do not possess more staying powers than they are generally accredited with. The head is very beautiful, being nearly smooth, and with immense length and strength of jaws, armed with teeth which make one feel glad to meet the Borzoi as a friend. The eyes are bright and wild, and have the peculiarity of varying in colour with the colour of the dog. Thus, a white dog marked, with lemon eyes; a mouse-coloured, eyes of the same tinge, and so on.

The favourite colour of all, and by far the rarest for these dogs, is pure white, but this is seldom met with. The usual colour is white, marked with fawn, lemon, red, or grey more or less mixed. Perhaps the prettiest features of all in the Borzoi are its ears, which are very small, fringed with delicate silky hair, and should be pricked with a half fall-over like a good colley's. In his movements he much resembles a wild animal, and has quite the slouching walk and long sling trot which is a characteristic of his born enemy, the wolf. Yet to see a Borzoi trot out with his long swinging action, and then just break into a canter, has always reminded me of a two-year-old cantering down to the post. The muscles on the quarters, thighs, and arms should be well developed, as these dogs are intended, and in fact used, to course the wild wolf. Strong must be the muscles, long the teeth, and indomitable the pluck of the Borzoi, who has to encounter single-handed the wild wolf in his own haunts. No doubt the Borzoi, on such occasions, remembers the well-known fact that the favourite meat of the wolf is dog, and acts accordingly. It is usual, however, to employ two Borzois to course a wolf, and it is only the best specimens that can be trusted to account for one single-handed.

Perhaps, before going more fully into the Borzoi as a British dog, the following extract from an article by Mr. F. Lowe, who two years ago spent some time in Russia, will give an idea of the extent of

the kennels of the Borzoi hounds, and the value placed upon them in their native country. He says:

In the south of Russia, from which I have just returned, I had the good fortune to be the guest of a keen and well-known sportsman Mr. Kalmoutzky, who, since coming into the inheritance of a magnificent property of something like twenty square miles, has built kennels which I should say are not surpassed in any country—being very large in size, and as near to perfection in detail as can well be imagined. The lodging houses, numbering three, are benched on two sides, and at each end there is a room for a man; three kennelmen being allowed for each kennel, two of them on duty night and day. This gives nine kennelmen to the kennels and, with five other officials, the number of men employed on it are fourteen. It is necessary to have men in attendance at all times, as the wolfhounds are very quarrelsome, and terrible fighters. Each kennel has a large yard of more than three quarters of an acre. In addition to the above there are commodious kennels for puppies (and these buildings are heated with hot air), cooking houses, and a hospital. There is telephone communication from all the kennels to Mr. Kalmoutzky's house, and he expects everything to be in readiness for a hunt in ten minutes from the time he sends his orders.

In the kennels above described can be seen perhaps the finest pack of wolfhounds in the world, numbering twenty-two couples. They form a magnificent collection, their owner having spared no expense in getting the best to be found in Russia, and of the oldest blood. Some of them have cost £300 each; and the estimated worth of the pack is considerably over £5000.

A perfect wolfhound must run up to a wolf, collar him by the neck just under the ear, and, with the two animals rolling over, the hound must never lose his hold, or the wolf would turn round and snap him through the leg. Three of these hounds hold the biggest wolf powerless; so that the men can dismount from their horses and muzzle the wolf to take him alive.

The biggest Scotch deerhounds have been tried, but found wanting; they will not hold long enough. And to show how tenacious is the grip of the Russian hounds, they are sometimes suffocated by the very effort of holding. Some of them stand 32in. at the shoulder, are enormously deep through the girth, and their length and power of jaw are something remarkable. They have a roach back, very long, muscular quarters, and capital legs and feet. In coat they are very profuse, of a soft, silky texture, but somewhat open.

I took the journey to Russia with eleven couples of foxhounds, as additions for Mr. Kalmoutzky's pack. I had cases made to hold two hounds, so that I had eleven of these big packages, which went as my personal luggage, the weight being a ton and a quarter. It took me exactly seven days to get to my destination, from Dover *via* Paris, Vienna, and Jassy; and I was met in right regal state, as there was a carriage and four for myself, another for Mr. Kalmoutzky's steward, and five waggons, each drawn by four horses, for the hounds, with seven chasseurs to take charge of them.

We had nearly forty miles to drive; and the hardy little Russian horses did this at a hard gallop, over plains, with no roads, and there were no changes. We were just under four hours doing this wild journey; and my good friend and host, who did not expect me to arrive so early, had gone out on a wolf-seeking expedition; but on his return, the first thing, after a most hearty welcome, was to inspect the kennel, with which I was, of course, greatly delighted. He would not show me the wolfhounds at this moment, as that inspection was reserved until after dinner, when they were all brought into his study, one by one, and their exploits separately recorded. Noble looking fellows they are; and by their immense size and powerful frames, in much the same formation as our English greyhound, they are admirably adapted to course big game. They look quiet, but the least movement excites them; and in leading them even through the hall, from the study, there was very nearly a battle royal or two. The Russian chasseurs, though, beat

any men I have ever seen in handling a hound; and their influence, apparently all by kindness, is extraordinary. I noticed that even the puppies at play made for the same spot in trying to pull each other down—namely, by the side of the neck under the ear; and this mode of attack seems instinctively born in them. The wolf's running is perfectly straight, and if he attacks it is straight ahead; he will only turn if caught in a manner to do so; and a dog laying hold of him over the back or hind quarters would be terribly punished. The clever wolfhound never gets hurt, no matter whether he or the wolf attacks first; and some singular trials of this sort have taken place.

Recently a very big wolf, that had been captured with much difficulty, was matched against any two hounds in Russia. The challenge was accepted, and the wolf placed in a huge box in an open space. The moment the trap was pulled the wolf stood and faced the spectators; on the hounds being slipped on him he attacked them; but they avoided his rush, and pinned him so cleverly that the wolf was muzzled and carried off without the least difficulty; whereupon an enormous price was paid for one of the hounds.

The Russian style of hunting would not meet all our English views of sport; but there is doubtless a deal of excitement about it. Mr. Kalmoutzky's domain is entirely on a plain, with scarcely any woodlands at all. It is all like a big sea of grass, the going being as good as on Newmarket Heath, with here and there the land turned up in cultivation, but looking much like patches in the vast expanse; so also did the reed beds of 300 or 400 acres each, and these are the coverts for the wolves and foxes. These reed beds are mostly eight or nine miles apart, so English foxhunters could see what a gallop could be had here; better than Dartmoor or Exmoor, as the turf is perfect, no rough ground, and the hills little more than undulations.

Special hunts would have been arranged on my behalf, but, alas! like our own frozen-out sportsmen, I had to be disappointed, as frost and snow interfered. However, one morning I was given

an insight into wolf coursing, by one that had been previously captured being let loose on the snow. First a very noted hound was slipped, to show how one could perform single-handed. The start given to the wolf was about 200 yards, and in about 600 yards the hound had got up, and in the next instant had taken hold by the neck, and both seemed to turn head over heels in a mass. The next course two hounds were slipped, and these ran up to the wolf one on each side, catching him almost at the same moment; the foe was then powerless, and seemed to be as easily muzzled as a collie dog.

I remarked to my host that I did not think the hounds seemed to go quite as fast as our greyhounds, and he replied, "No, they do not. We have tried them, and the greyhound is the faster; but none of your breeds have the hold of our hounds."

The plan of a regular hunt was fully described to me. It is decided to draw a reed bed, and very quietly a mounted chasseur with three wolfhounds is stationed on some vantage ground near. Other points are guarded in the same manner, and then the head huntsman rides into the covert with a pack of foxhounds. The oldest wolves will break covert at almost the first cheer given to hounds; but the younger ones want a lot of rattling. However, the keen eyes of the men and hounds soon detect wolves stealing away; the three hounds are then slipped, a gallop begins, and generally, in the course of a mile or less, the wolf is bowled over. The chasseur then dismounts, cleverly gets astride the wolf, and collars him by the ears, the hounds still holding on like grim death. Another chasseur rides up, slips a muzzle on the wolf, which is then hauled on to one of the horses, tightly strapped to the Mexican sort of saddle, and taken off to a waggon in waiting near. Foxes are similarly coursed and killed with foxhounds, the latter being stopped at the edge of the covert.

Following Mr. Lowe's article, some correspondence ensued, and Colonel Wellesley forwarded an interesting communication he had received from Prince

Obolensky on the subject. His Royal Highness, who has a famous strain of Borzoi of his own, and may be taken as a leading authority on the breed, says:

The dogs that have been catalogued at various shows in England for the last three years are pure Borzois, and have come originally from the best kennels in Russia. For instance, Krilutt, Págooba, Sobol, Zloeem, and others were not ordinary working hounds, but dogs that were admired in their native country, both on the show bench and in the field. Págooba, for example, who is of exceptional size for a bitch, has several times pinned wolves single-handed.

The English traveller mentions the size—viz., 32in.—of the dogs he saw as tremendous. There are exceptional cases where the Borzoi has stood very near that height. At the dog show in Moscow this year a dog called Pilai measured 31½in., or 80 centimètres; but the average height is from 28in. to 29½in. It often proves to be the case, however, that, for working purposes, the smaller dog shows itself to excel in speed, pluck, and tenacity.

For wolf hunting I personally prefer the English greyhound, acclimatised here (*i.e.*, born in Russia from English parents); but I am also a great admirer of the Russian rough-coated Borzoi. I may claim to know something about the latter, because for many years I have bred and hunted them, and my dogs are the lineal descendants of those bred by my grandfather, General Bibikoff, who was himself renowned for his sporting proclivities, and for the excellence of his breed of dogs. So valued is that strain now, that it can be found in most of the best kennels in Russia.

In addition to sport with Borzois obtained in the above manner, occasional meetings are held where hares are coursed; and "bagged" or rather "caged"

wolves treated in a similar manner. Judging, however, from what I have been told of such gatherings, the sport is by no means desirable or of a high class, so need not be further alluded to here.

It is but natural that with the popularisation of a new variety of dog, some discussion should take place thereon. In the present instance, an attempt was made upon the name of the hound, but as the word Borzoi had obtained general acceptance, was easy to pronounce, and not too long to puzzle even a child, the "raid" failed. It is now adopted by the Kennel Club, by the chief Russian authorities, and no doubt that hound once known as the Russian wolfhound will now remain the Borzoi to the end of his days. On this matter, Prince Obolensky says: "I am glad to see English sporting papers adopting the Russian name for this breed, for the word itself (Borzoi *mas.*, Borzaia *fem.*) means 'swift and hot-tempered;' and though poets sometimes apply the expression to a high-spirited steed, it is, with this exception, always applied to greyhounds only; for this reason the English greyhound is called, in Russia, 'Angliskaia Borzaia,' or English Borzoi."

Some little time before the above was published, Lieutenant G. Tamooski, writing from Merv, proposed the term "Psovi," which means literally "thick coated," as a fit name for the dog as it is known in

this country, because he says "Borzoi" means any coursing hound whatever.

The Duchess of Newcastle, Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Mrs. Morrison, of near Salisbury; Lady Innes Kerr, and Mr. A. H. Blees have of late given particular attention to the Borzoi, and they, with Mr. K. Muir, an English resident in Moscow, who brought over with him, during a recent visit, a couple of excellent hounds, have had specimens perhaps as good as can be found in any Russian kennel. Their best specimens are much stronger, and more powerful than most of those seen at our earlier shows. Mrs. Wellesley's Krilutt is measured to be 30in. at the shoulders, and pretty nearly 100lb. in weight, and Mr. Muir's Korotai is half an inch taller, and about 110lb. in weight. Both are Russian born, and have proved their ability to win prizes at St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as in our own country. Like the rest of their race, they are "thick coated dogs"—the smoother ones are not liked in this country—not so hard in their hair as the English deerhound, but the jacket is closer, and, if not so straight, is perhaps the more weather-resisting of the two. As the Russians themselves say that the two kinds of coat, thick and comparatively smooth, appear in puppies of the same

litter, there is no other conclusion to arrive at, that they are one and the same variety. At any rate, they are allowed to be so in this the land of their adoption.

Considerable interest was taken in the extraordinary collection of this hound that appeared at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in February, 1892. Here, many classes had been provided, the result being an entry of about fifty. These included a splendid team from the "Imperial Kennels," most of which belonged to the Grand Duke Nicholas. However, three were actually the property of the Czar, including a beautiful bitch called Lasca, and a couple of dogs, Oudar and Blitsay. Oudar was a particularly fine hound, and though in bad condition, consequent on his long journey from St. Petersburg, he stood well with the best of our previously imported dogs, and in the end gained second honours in perhaps as good an open class as was ever seen anywhere. He stood 30½in. at the shoulders, and scaled about 105lb.

Most of these Russian dogs were sold, some of them for high prices, Oudar realising £200, and the bitch already named as much. The Lord Mayor of London was presented with a handsome specimen, and most of these Imperial dogs were sold. Their caretaker had instructions to sell the lot, but none for less than £20 apiece. The strains in this

country must be improved by these importations, and any fears as to degeneracy from inter-breeding may be set at rest. Another big dog of the race is Colonel Wellesley's Damon, 30¾in. at the shoulders, and about 110lb. in weight, but when we saw him he did not quite equal in symmetry and general excellence such dogs as Krilutt, Oudar, Korotai, and may be another dog, imported by Mr. Summerson, of Darlington, called Koat, afterward H'Vat.

To dwell a little more upon the very best specimens seen in England during the past year or so—Krilutt and Korotai, with Oudar and Ooslad, certainly bear the palm. The latter, a fawn hound, is rather smaller than the others, but on one occasion, at least, he has beaten Korotai, a decision with which I do not agree; for if Ooslad is a little finer in the head, his opponent beats him in coat, colour, power, size, and in all other particulars. Korotai is a white dog with slight blue markings. It is said that when in Russia he has run down and overpowered a wolf. His strain is of the best and most valued, and I certainly liked him the best of any of his race I had seen until Oudar came on to the scene. However, at the show already alluded to, the latter was not in good condition, and suffered defeat; Korotai winning chief honours in an extraordinary fine lot of dogs. Krilutt had been in the

challenge class, and Oudar was first in a division for novices, and now he will be well cared for in the kennels of The Duchess of Newcastle at Clumber. He went into her Grace's possession for, I believe, £200, and is a portion of one of the finest collections of the Russian wolfhound ever brought together in this country. At the time of writing there are over fifty specimens of the variety kennelled at Clumber —including several especially fine dogs and bitches.

Mr. Summerson's dog Koat, now known as Mr. W. E. Allcock's H'Vat, is another good specimen. Argos (Mr. O. H. Blees's), a black and tan in colour, is also a very nice hound, excepting so far as the colour goes, which is not good. The owner of the last named Borzoi, who is a Russian, has repeatedly been an exhibitor in this country, and at the Kennel Club's show, in 1891, he took first, second, and third prizes in dogs, but was not so successful in bitches, where Mr. F. Lowe won, with a powerful and excellent specimen he had brought with him from Russia, and called Roussalka. She would, no doubt, have been useful here, but, unfortunately, died soon after the show. Colonel Wellesley's bitch, Págooba, and Mr. K. Muir's dog, Pwlai, are both hounds of a very high class, the latter darker in colour, and built "on less galloping lines" than his kennel companion, Korotai.

Of these very excellent specimens, Colonel Wellesley must have the honour of being first in the field with Krilutt, who made an early appearance —and a most successful one it was—at the Kennel Club show, when held at the Alexandra Palace in 1889—the year of the bloodhound trials. Krilutt had come with a great reputation as the winner of a silver medal at Moscow, and quite bore out all the good words that had been said of him. Exquisite in coat and colour—the latter white with light markings of pale fawn—he stood taller than any other dog in his class, and up to this period and for some time after was certainly the best Borzoi I had seen. Since, two or three have appeared that are, I believe, quite his equals. Whether it is worth while mentioning a dog named Zloeem, which, a year later, had been purchased in Russia by an American gentleman, Mr. Paul Hacke, is an open question. However, it was said that Zloeem could lower the colours of Krilutt and all other opponents, and at Brighton and the Crystal Palace was produced for the purpose of doing so. How completely he failed is now a matter of history—a second-rate dog only when at his very best.

Mr. Freeman Lloyd has had a good dog or two, smaller perhaps than the cracks; but his Whirlwind will always be a typical specimen, and if not quite so

tall as Zloeem, a better animal all round; as is another hound, Molodyets, which was purchased for comparatively little money a couple of years ago by the Rev. G. C. Dicker.

It might be well to mention that considerable risk is run by the loss of these dogs immediately after their arrival in this country. To my personal knowledge, three or four deaths have so taken place. No doubt the changes of food, in their manner of living, and in other surroundings, bring on a complication of disorders not unlike ordinary distemper. That handsome bitch, Roussalka, brought over by Mr. F. Lowe, died soon after it left his kennels—it cost its new owner £100; and Mr. Muir's Korotai had a narrow escape, lying at death's door for several days. Being a dog of strong, hardy constitution, and well nursed, he contrived to pull through.

The usual colours of the Borzoi are white with markings of fawn in varying shades, of blue or slate, sometimes of black and tan. The latter is not considered good, nor are the whole colours which are occasionally seen—fawn and black and tan. Some of the white dogs are occasionally patched with pale brindle, which, however, is not so well defined in its bars or shades as that colour is found on our greyhounds and bull

dogs. Many persons object to the brindle or tiger-coloured marks, and Colonel Tchebeshoff, one of the great authorities on the breed, disqualifies black, and black and tan, and white with black spots, as indicating descent from English or Oriental greyhounds. Still, against this opinion there is a famous picture, in the possession of the Czar, of four Borzois chasing a wolf. At least one of these animals gives the appearance of being black and tan, with an almost white face, very broad white collar and chest, white stern and hindquarters.

The size of the Borzoi and his coat will have been surmised from what has already been written. His general appearance will be seen from the illustration. As a companionable dog he is highly spoken of, but, like all other dogs, he must be brought up for the purpose for which he is intended. In many of the Russian kennels he is kept for hunting a savage animal (by a few only to be used for fox and hare) and to do so successfully must be savage himself. Those which have been reared in this manner, and not had the benefit of civilising home influences, are not to be trusted any more than would one of our own foxhounds. But, as I have said, properly brought up and educated, he will be found as companionable as the best—

no fonder of fighting than the deerhound, faithful as the collie, and as handsome and picturesque as either. His naturalisation with us is accomplished, and I can see no reason whatever why he is any more likely to be eliminated from "Modern Dogs" than the St. Bernard. He will be used here as a purely fancy variety; there are no wolves for him to kill, hares and rabbits are out of his line, and deer must be left for the big foxhound and the Highland deerhound to tackle.

I have written of the Borzoi as we know him here, and as he will in the future be known, taking no account of the various strains said to be in the Czar's dominions.

During 1892 a specialist club was formed to look after the interests of the Borzoi in this country, but up to the time of writing this, no description of its favourite dog has been issued by the members. In the absence of such a compilation I think it best to give the description drawn up in 1889 by the "Russian Imperial Society for the encouragement of Sport," and which was first published in the *Stock Keeper*. This is as follows:

"*Head.*—Generally lean throughout, with flat narrow skull, leading over a hardly perceptible stop to a long snout. The head, from forehead to end of nose, should be so fine and lean that the shape and

direction of the bones and principal veins can be easily seen.

"*Nose.*—Black.

"*Eyes.*—Dark, expressive, oblong, almond shaped.

"*Ears.*—Small, not quite round at the tips, not leathery, set on high, and with the tips when thrown back almost touching behind the occiput.

"*Neck.*—Not swan-like, though not short nor rising straight up from the withers.

"*Shoulders.*—Clean.

"*Chest.*—Somewhat narrow, but not hollow.

"*Back.*—Rather bony, and free from any cavity in the spinal chord (as, for example, is often seen in English Greyhounds), with a well marked arch in the male, but level and broad in the female.

"*Loins.*—Broad and drooping.

"*Ribs.*—On no account round like a barrel, but flat like a fish, deep, reaching to the elbow, and even lower.

"*Groin.*—In the male short, in the female roomy.

"*Forelegs.*—Lean and straight. Seen from the front they should be narrow, and from the side broad at the shoulder and narrowing gradually down to the foot.

"*Hind Legs.*—Should be the least thing under the body when standing still, not straight, and

the stifle only slightly bent, and the hind legs not too far apart from one another. Free from dew claws.

"*Muscles.*—Those of the hindquarters, shoulders, and chest should be long and not convex.

"*Pasterns.*—Short.

"*Feet.*—Long toes, closely joined together, short and strong nails, and the animal should stand more on the nails than on the heel.

"*Coat.*—Soft, long, silky, and wavy, and in places somewhat curly. The feet should be covered with fur like a hare.

"*Tail.*—Long and sickle-shaped.

"The male should in general be shorter in body than the female. It should be possible to place the male in a square, so that the withers, toes of forefeet, and heels of hind legs should be placed within the limits of the four lines forming it."

In Russia, although judging dogs by points is in vogue, the procedure connected therewith is arranged on different lines to that followed in this country. For instance, forty-five is taken as the complement indicating perfection, and each point of the dog is given five, no particular one having a greater number allowed than another. However, to modify this the various points are placed in order of precedence, according to the Russian standard, they

being as follows: Hind legs, forelegs, ribs, back, general symmetry, muzzle, eyes, ears, tail.

As previously stated, the above is given as the standard of the Borzoi, adopted by the leading authorities in its native country. Here we should note the head particularly, and no one will deny that the correct formation and expression of the head and face of a dog ought to be of greater value than the carriage and size of its ears; nor can we see why the shape of the back of the dog should differ from that of the bitch. Again, we in this country will never agree to allow flat ribs like "those of a fish." There is no reason why the ribs should not be as round and well sprung as are those of a greyhound. Nothing is said about the colour of the Borzoi. This ought to be white, with blue, grey, or fawn markings of different shades, the latter sometimes deep orange coloured, approaching red. Pale brindled marks on the white ground are often found, and are not objectionable, and fawn dogs with or without black muzzles are not unusual. Whole colours are unsatisfactory. Some leading authorities would disqualify black and tan and black hounds, and severely handicap others marked with these colours on the white ground. Certainly the lighter marked animals are the handsomest and the most admired in this country, though, as stated earlier on,

one or two heavily coloured dogs of great merit have been shown in this country.

According to our English notion of awarding points I should make those of the Borzoi as follows:

	Value.		Value.
Head and muzzle	15	Thighs and hocks.....	10
Eyes and ears	10	Legs and feet	10
Neck and chest	10	Stern	5
Back and loins	15	Coat	5
Ribs.....	5	General symmetry.....	15
	55		45

Grand Total **100.**

The height for a dog should be from 28 inches to 31 inches at the shoulder; a bitch about two inches smaller. Weight, a dog, from 75lb. to 100lb.; a bitch, from 60lb. to 75lb.

I do not know that measurements are, as a rule, any great guide in determining excellence, still the following figures relating to the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley's well known Krilutt, and published in the *Dog Owner's Annual* for 1892, will give some idea as to what a perfect Borzoi ought to be when analysed statistically in inches: "Length of head, 11½ inches; from occiput to between shoulders, 11½; between shoulders to between hips, 23; between hips to set on of tail, 6¼; length of tail, 21 inches; total length, 73¼ inches. Height at shoulders, 30¼ inches; girth

of chest, 33; of narrowest part of "tuck-up," 22; girth above stifle bend, 13; round stifle, 11½; round hock joint, 6½; below that joint, 4½; round elbow joint, 8¼; above that joint, 8¾; girth, midway between elbow and pastern, 6½; round neck, 17; girth of head round occiput, 16½; girth between occiput and eyes, 16¼; girth round the eyes, 13¾; and girth of the muzzle between eyes and nose, 9 inches. Weight about 98lb.

As to the above, Captain Graham tells me he measured Krilutt carefully on more than one occasion, but could not make him more than 29¾ inches at the shoulders, and I have made his full height bare 30 inches.

It may be said that I have not entered with sufficient fulness into the history of the Borzoi, as he is known in Russia, and given the names of the various strains some writers claim there are in his native country. We are, however, contented with the animal as we have him here, and to tell his admirers that there is a strain of the hound, known as the Tchistopsovoy Borzoi, another as the Psovoy Borzoi, that the Courland Borzoi is extinct, and other such matter, would be a little too confusing. And really so much has appeared about this dog since his popularisation in this country that is of doubtful truth, care ought to be taken in what is reproduced.

One recent writer tells us that, even so far back as 1800, certain Borzoi of the Courland strain were sold for from 7000 to 10,000 roubles a piece, which, in our money, cannot be computed at less than from 1000*l.* to 1500*l.* a head! No wonder that so valuable a hound has become extinct (on the principle that the best always die), and it is interesting to learn that, at a time when we in England were giving 50*l.* each or little more for our very best hounds, more than twenty times that sum was being paid in Russia for similar quadrupeds.

Still the Borzoi always did flourish in the dominions of the Czar, and at the present time the Imperial kennels at St. Petersburg contain sixty-two full-grown Borzois and an entry of forty-five puppies. There are fourteen men kept to look after and to train them to their proper work, and the nature of this I have already stated. Whatever may be urged to the contrary, it must further be said that, in pace and general excellence for hare coursing purposes, this Russian hound is far behind our own good greyhound.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE POINTER.

ALTHOUGH the Pointer is of comparatively recent introduction into this country—comparatively alongside his fellow worker the setter—no animal is more popular with the shooter. Originally said to come from Spain, a country to which we are indebted for other dogs, Sydenham Edwards, writing in 1805, says it was first introduced by a merchant trading with Portugal, at a very modern period, and was then used by an old "reduced baron," named Bechill, who lived in Norfolk, and "who could shoot flying." The same writer eulogises this Spanish pointer, and so good a dog was he, and required so little training that there was quite a chance of his putting the nose of the "setting spaniel" out of joint altogether. "Shooting flying" came into vogue about the year 1730; and this may be taken to be about the date of the introduction of the pointer into England.

Probably, France had pointers before this time.

One of our modern writers falls into a curious error with regard to a picture by Francis Desportes. The artist depicts two dogs, which the author says are examples of the "early foxhound and pointer cross in France," of the date about 1701. As a fact, the picture is a portrait of two favourite hounds from the pack of Louis XV., Pompée and Floressant, and was painted in 1739. There is no mistaking the hound character of these dogs, and they display no trace, so far as I can make out, of any pointer appearance whatever. The pheasant and two other birds in the background are merely accessories to the picture, and are not put there to indicate that the dogs below them are of a game finding variety. However, there is extant another drawing by the same artist, of a pointer and two setters, with partridges in front of them, the smooth-coated dog being quite of modern type, but with his stern shortened.

By the means of that fine old picture, "The Spanish Pointer," by Stubbs, and which was engraved by Woollett in 1768, we know what kind of a dog it was: liver and white in colour, heavily and massively made, big of head, double nosed, strong loined, shortened stern; a cumbrous dog, steady enough, no doubt, but as unlike our modern pointer as a Suffolk punch is unlike a thoroughbred race-horse. To one of the London dog shows, I think it

was in 1891, Mr. Walter Gilbey, of Norfolk, sent up a brace of Spanish pointers. These were short, thick set, small dogs, fawn, rather than lemon and white in colour, doubled nosed, with short stumpy heads—very ugly animals indeed, and, however staunch and steady they might be on game, they would certainly be sadly deficient in pace, and of no use in competition against the high rangers we at present own. Nor could these Spanish pointers of Mr. Gilbey's compare with the one Stubbs had, over a hundred years before, given us upon canvas. As a fact, they were short and thick enough in head, and sufficiently heavy in under-jaw, to give indications of a bulldog cross. Still, they were pure bred animals so far as they went.

Good as the old Spanish pointer had been, our English sportsmen required something better. The old strain tired much, and became slow at the end of a day's heavy work; and indeed, it lacked perseverance generally. So, it was said, a cross was resorted to. History tells us this was found with the foxhound, and that the celebrated Colonel Thornton, of Yorkshire, was the first man to bring the improved dog prominently to the notice of the public. This might be so or not, we fancy not; for, about the same period, pointers, far removed from the imported Spanish dog in appearance, were

not at all uncommon in England, and they could easily have been brought over from France. In any case, if the gallant Colonel was not actually the maker of the modern English pointer, he had the credit of being so, and, sportsman as he was, contrived to get big prices for some of his dogs, and obtain a reputation for them as being the best in England.

It was said that two bred by him, Pluto and Juno, remained on point during the whole of the time Sidney Gilpin, the animal painter, was taking a sketch for their portraits, and this occupied about an hour and a quarter. This was not, however, a sufficiently extraordinary feat for his dogs, one of which, the gallant Colonel stated, had stood on point for five hours at a stretch, and was even then loth to move in and spring the game! Such a story as the latter does not require much further exaggeration to suggest others, like that dog frozen to death whilst on point; or its cousin, where a sportsman lost his dog (it was not on an Irish mountain), and on going over the same ground twelve months later found the skeleton of his old favourite still standing with one foot raised and on point, whilst six yards away lay the bones of two brace and a half of partridges, the feathers of the birds having long before been blown to the four winds of the

heavens. Surely, then, there are grounds for the truth of the north country expression, "Shutters is leears," although this may be qualified by the usual addendum "but fishers, by gum!"

The jovial colonel is said to have had an Eclipse of pointers in his dog called Dash, which was the produce of a foxhound and a Spanish pointer. Dash could beat all other dogs, he never omitted to find birds in front of him, and his extraordinary intuition enabled him to do this without quartering his ground as other dogs did. Moreover, Dash was as steady and staunch behind in backing other dogs as needs be. We are not told how so extraordinary an animal could so far be outstripped by some sorry quarterer of his ground as to be in so backward a position as to have to back. The fact of the matter is, that these extraordinarily fast dogs are never good backers because they have not the opportunity of being made so; and they can scarcely be perfection as such naturally and without some training. Dash sustained his reputation to the end, for he was sold by his breeder to Sir Richard Symons for champagne and burgundy to the value of £160, a hogshead of claret, "an elegant gun," and another dog. There was a proviso that should accident befal this canine wonder he must be returned to his former owner for fifty guineas. This

was brought about by the unfortunate Dash breaking one of his legs.

At the close of the past century, and about the beginning of the present one, the pointers were pretty similar in colour to what they are now—brown, or liver and white, lemon and orange, and white; some heavily flecked or ticked with these colours on a white ground, others black; and no doubt there would be pure browns or livers, as there are occasionally now, though we do not read of them. Sometimes we see pointers with white ticks or flecks on a brown ground, and they, though odd, are by no means unsightly. About ninety years ago the Earl of Lauderdale had a strain of very small pointers that would be little more than 30lb. in weight; they bore a reputation for excelling in their work, but were generally considered too diminutive to be so useful as the bigger dogs as we have them now. They were, however, a novelty, and were likely enough introduced from France, where, about that time, a small and lightly made pointer was quite common.

Earlier than this the Duke of Kingston owned a celebrated strain of black pointers; but they, not being so easy to see when in work as a white dog or one nearly white, the colour never became popular. Still a superstition remains to this day, in some

parts of the country, that the black pointers are the best to kill game over, "because such have the better noses and the more stamina, and birds lie better to a black dog than to a white one." The latter idea prevails in a somewhat similar way as to wild animals—foxes, otters, &c.—bolting better to a white terrier than to a coloured one; but whether there is anything in such a statement we cannot give an opinion, though our experience is by no means a small one in the matter of foxes and otters.

Before entering on to the show period of the pointer and the introduction of field trial competitions, he was, no doubt, more used to the gun than he has been since. Shooting surroundings have been much changed during the past thirty or forty years. Battues and artificial breeding of game have been introduced on a large scale; improved agriculture and general cultivation have further altered matters; so have the close cropping of the land, the use of machines for mowing and reaping, and increased drainage. Under the old system the stubbles remained as high as a pair of shooting boots, the after grass required dogs to work it, rents were lower, and the farmer could afford to have a "rushy pasture" or two on his land, which, being ill-drained, grew coarse "bent" grass, that afforded

lovely shelter for the birds. I am writing of inland shooting now, and not of the moors. One thing with another and the old system is changed. On some of the best partridge land in England, and so in the world, birds are not usually killed over dogs; they are either walked up by the shooters moving on in a row, or driven where the sportsmen take their stands or their seats and wait until accumulated coveys of partridges fly within gunshot.

Still, the old style is the best, and nothing prettier in the way of sport is there than walking behind a brace of well-trained pointers, either through turnips or over rough land, and killing your birds as your dogs find them, first one dog and then the other, quartering right and left, crossing correctly, and backing as occasion requires. To kill driven birds may require a smart shot, to kill them when walking in a line may require nerve and steadiness; but to kill them over dogs, you acquire some knowledge of the habits of the game you are after, and, moreover, are proud in the possession of a brace of animals which, without prejudice, you may believe to be the best in the universe.

All things in this world pretty much find their level; may be, had such not been the case, the race of the pointer would have died out when he came to be so little used, through what some are pleased to

call "modern improvements in the way of sport." But the introduction of dog shows gave him a fillip, and the establishment of field trials raised his social status higher than ever. When the great Daniel Lambert, great in more ways than in obesity, had a noted strain of black pointers about 1840, he was contented to give a puppy away to a friend, or to sell one for a matter of five pounds or even less, and little more could he obtain for a fully grown dog. No one disputed the excellence of his kennel, yet, at its disposal on his death, six brace and a half of pointers realised but 256 guineas, the highest figure, 46 guineas, being obtained for lot 13, a dog called Bang, and said to be very good in the field. Swap and Snake, unbroken, from one of Webbe Edge's bitches called Bloom, who had been sold for 80 guineas at the Edge sale, realised 25 guineas each. The three latter not at all bad prices, when the period and other matters are taken into consideration.

Even so long ago as this, the Earl of Derby, at Knowsley, had, and was obtaining, a kennel of good pointers; at Edenhall, in Cumberland, the Musgraves had some excellent dogs; so had Lord Mexborough, the late Marquis of Westminster, Lord Lichfield, Lord Henry Bentinck, Sir E. Antrobus, and last, but by no means least, Mr. Webbe Edge, of Stretley Hall, Nottingham.

Some of the oldest of our modern kennels have their foundation from the stock purchased at the Edge sale in 1845, and Mr. Thomas Statter, of Stand Hall, near Manchester, whose death occurred so recently as in 1891, was there, and bought a brace of dogs that did him great good in the future. The late Prince Consort was likewise a purchaser at the same sale, and so were the Duke of Portland, who bought Rake, and others; and Mr. George Moore, of Appleby, Lincolnshire, who, for a time, had a kennel of pointers as good as any man in the country possessed. Then, just prior to this period, Mr. Osbaldeston and Mr. Meynell, so great with foxhounds, had spent considerable time and expense in improving the pointer, but it may be said that their blood, with that of the Squire of Thornville Royal, all lapsed into the Knowsley and the Edge strains, and from these to others, such as the few dogs that Lang, the Cockspur Street gunmaker, sold for such high prices, Mr. Comberbach's, and Mr. Statham's, of Derby.

The Edge strain appears to have been pretty well distinct from the others, and has proved of infinite benefit to the admirers of the pointer who followed him. His were medium-sized but particularly elegantly moulded dogs, dark liver and white in colour, with more than a tendency to a golden or

bronze shading on the cheeks. They carried their heads well in the field, and in work were quite equal to what they were in appearance.

More modern kennels were those of Sir R. Garth, Q.C., and Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, Ipsley Court, Redditch; and the latter must be taken as the connecting link between the present generation and the past one.

Mr. W. Brailsford informs me that, between 1830 and 1840 or so, the best pointers were certainly to be found in the Midlands. In addition to the kennels already named Mr. Gell, Hopton Hall, Wirksworth, had a choice lot of dogs. Mr. Statham, of Derby, alluded to before, owned some good looking, double-nosed dogs of the Spanish type; and perhaps his other pointers contained more crosses with those from Mr. Moore, of Appleby Hall, than any other kind. The double-nosed strain soon died out.

Mr. Martin, at the Laxton kennels, had mostly black and white dogs, still there were some lemon and white amongst them. Mr. Edge had given his sole attention to the liver and white, and no doubt to him their popularity at the present day is attributable. Lord Chesterfield, at Gedling, whose kennel was under the charge of the father of my informant, also had some black and whites of great excellence.

Mr. Brailsford further says that two of the best dogs in the Edge kennels in 1841–2 were Rake and Romp, but the latter, having tan shadings on his liver-marked cheeks, was not much used for breeding purposes. Thus, even so far back as half a century ago, a purely fancy point was not sneered at by even the greatest of breeders. The Edge strain was in the first instance obtained by judicious crossing with dogs and bitches obtained from Captain White, Mr. Hurts, of Alderwasley, Mr. Mundy, Mr. G. Moore, Mr. Statham, Sir R. Goodrich, and others. All colours but liver and white were rigorously excluded, and the leading feature of the Edge strain lay in its general uniformity. The best specimens only were saved; the kennels were never overcrowded, and no more dogs than could be used and properly trained for the owner's own requirements were kept. The latter an excellent arrangement that does not, however, find favour now; and I fancy that already the market is well nigh glutted with pointers and setters, as recent sales at Aldridge's prove.

Mr. Garth's dogs were disposed of by auction at the Lillie Bridge running grounds in June, 1874, when eight brace of pointers realised 490 guineas. It may be noted that the plums of this sale were obtained by Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Rhiwlas, and by Mr. G. Pilkington, of Widnes; and no doubt the

celebrity both these kennels obtained later on, was, in a great degree, owing to the discriminating purchases made at Mr. Garth's. Mr. Price took away four brace and Mr. Pilkington one brace, the latter giving 67 guineas and 55 guineas respectively for Major, by Drake—Mite, and for Doll by Major—Jill. Mr. Price's lots cost him more money, and £150 for the grand pointer Drake, then seven years old, was the highest figure the Welsh squire gave, and it was a high one for so old a dog.

The Earl of Sefton sold his pointers the same week, but the prices realised were not noteworthy.

The first Field Trial meeting ever held took place over Sir S. Whitbread's Bedfordshire estate at Southall, April, 1866, and at which "Idstone" and Mr. John Walker, of Halifax, were the judges—both, unfortunately, deceased. The day was by no means favourable for good work, being hot and windless; notwithstanding this, judging from the points awarded to the dogs, many of them were of the highest class. Two of them, Mr. R. Garth's Jill and Mr. Fleming's Dandy, made the highest number of points possible; and Mr. Brockton's Bounce, Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet, and Mr. J. A. Handy's Moll had 90 points given them out of a possible hundred. Whilst alluding to the maximum of points obtained in a working trial by a pointer it would be an omission

not to mention Mr. Lloyd Price's handsome bitch Belle, who at the Vaynol trials in 1872 made the perfect score of 100, though in the champion plate she was beaten by Mr. Llewellin's setter Countess.

Our modern winners do not appear to have quite reached these high figures, and, as a comparison, I will give the following figures awarded at the Pointer Club Trials, that took place over Lord Kenyon's estate near Wrexham in 1889. Here the maximum points were 100, and Mr. F. Lowe's Belle des Bordes was given 98; Mr. Heywood Lonsdale's Crab, 96; Mr. C. H. Beck's Quits Baby, 94; and Mr. Lloyd Price's Miss Sixpence 88, these running in the all-aged stake. The puppies did not do so well, and the maximums reached were 66 and 57 by Mr. Beck's Pax of Upton and his Quail of Upton, and 62 by the late Mr. T. Statter's Toil. This was the last occasion in this country upon which a field trial was judged by points.

The disparity in the above numerals, we should say, lies more in the method and in the opinion of the judges rather than in the fact that the modern pointer is inferior in his work to that of a quarter of a century ago. As a matter of fact, nowadays the work got out of the properly trained dogs should be of a far higher class than was formerly the case, for the largest owners of field trial dogs have special

men to look after and train them, breaking them in the first instance for public work alone, though after their advent as puppies they are well able to do their duty amongst the grouse in Scotland.

So successful was the initial Field Trial meeting that others followed, and so they have been continued, and exist at the present day. Some writers have endeavoured to make a distinction between the work done by the liver and white dogs and by the lemon and whites, one advocating the one colour and others the other. But let me say colour has nothing whatever to do with the work of a dog. Both have originally come from the same strains, and, given equal opportunities, will be equally good. My field trial and shooting experiences over dogs have been long continued without any material cessation, and during this period I have seen good and bad of all colours, excepting, perhaps, I have never seen a really good field trial performer a whole brown. Blacks I have seen, and black and whites too, good enough for anyone, and there are fresh in my mind Mr. W. Arkwright's ugly black dog Tap, that performed so well at the meetings in 1892, his dam was, however, a lemon and white bitch. Another, called Nigger, that Mr. Herbert Brown had two or three years ago, which came from a strain Mr. J. H. Salter had in his kennels, and valued

highly. Perhaps the fastest pointer I ever saw was Colonel Cotes' lemon and white Carlo, which gave old Roberts, his trainer, so much trouble to keep within working distance.

Of some of the chief dogs at the earlier trials, "Stonehenge," in his "Dogs of the British Isles," says:

Among the liver and whites the celebrated Drake, bred by Sir R. Garth, and sold by him for £150 in his seventh season to Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Bala, was an example of speed and endurance. This dog was in his day the fastest and most wonderful animal that ever quartered a field, and his race up to a brace of birds at Shrewsbury in the field trials of 1868, when the ground was so dry as to cause a cloud of dust to rise on his dropping to their scent, was a sight which will probably never be seen again. He was truly a phenomenon among pointers. His extraordinary pace compelled his dropping in this way, for otherwise he could not have stopped himself in time, but when he had lost more of his pace he began frequently to stand up.

A very beautiful and racing bitch was Mr. Lloyd Price's Belle, bred by Lord H. Bentinck, and bought by Mr. Price for £10 after winning a third prize at Manchester. She was at first fearfully headstrong, and chased hares for many weeks persistently, being far beyond her puppyhood and unbroken; but the perseverance of a young, and till then unknown, breaker, Anstey, overcame these defects, and being tried in private to be good, she was entered at Vaynol field trials in 1872, when she won the prize for braces, and also that for bitches, being left in to contest the disputed point of priority in the two breeds with Mr. Whitehouse's Priam against Mr. Llewellyn's Countess and Nellie, both setters. In this trial she succumbed to Countess, but turned the tables on her at Bala in 1873. Being possessed of this beautiful and

excellent bitch, Mr. Lloyd Price naturally desired to match her, and so Drake, as already mentioned, was purchased. Previously, however, Drake had got several dogs of high class, including Viscount Downe's Bang, Drake II., and Mars; but, considering the run he had at the stud, his stock could not be said to have come out as well as might be expected in public, though in private their character was well maintained. Crossed with Belle, a litter considerably above the average was obtained, including Mallard and Beau, but none coming up to the form of either sire or dam, and not equal to Eos, who was subsequently from her by Mr. Wm. Statter's Major. Mr. Statter had also bred Dick, successful at Bala and Ipswich, from a daughter of Drake by his Major, who was descended from the good old-fashioned strains of Lord Derby, Mr. Antrobus, and Mr. Edge. Major was a fast, resolute dog, and ranged in beautiful style, but he behaved very badly at Bala in 1867 (his only public appearance), having just returned from the moors, and not owning the partridge scent, as is often the case with even the steadiest grouse dogs. It should be remembered that in these days fast pace is demanded far more than in those when pointers were used in the south for beating high stubbles in fields of 20 acres or less, and when the heavy breeds of Mr. Edge, Lord Derby, and Mr. Antrobus were able to do all that was desired, delicacy of nose and steadiness, both before and behind, being the chief essentials required. By careful selection, and some luck, Sir R. Garth was able to breed Drake, and Lord H. Bentinck also obtained Belle, while Mr. Statter has been little behind them with his Major, Dick, and Rex. In the south Mr. S. Price has produced his Bang, Mike, and Wagg, the first not quite up to the pace of the above dogs, but closely approaching it. He is descended from Brockton's Bounce, one of the old heavy sort, who, however, showed fair pace at Southill, in 1865, but crossed with the lemon and white strain of Mr. Whitehouse, which I must now proceed to describe. Mr. Lloyd Price added Wagg to his kennel for stud purposes, and in the year 1877 obtained a very fast and clever puppy from Devon-

shire, viz., Bow Bells, by Bang out of Leech's Belle; Mr. Whitehouse's Rapid is another Devonshire-bred dog of recent celebrity, being by Clang out of Romp.

Up to the time of the institution of dog shows, the lemon and whites were little valued in comparison with the liver and whites; but Mr. H. Gilbert's Bob and Major (the latter sold to Mr. Smith, of Tettenhall, on Mr. Gilbert's death in 1862), brought the lemon and whites into notice on show bench; while a son of Bob, Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet, already alluded to, took 90 points out of a possible 100 at the Bedford trials. Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet also took several prizes on the show bench, and his stock have quite superseded that of Major, which, handsome as they are admitted to be, have not shown much capacity for the work demanded from them in the field. Mr. Whitehouse has bred from this dog Priam, Rap, Joke, Flirt, and Nina, all winners; besides Macgregor, who is by Sancho out of a grand-daughter of Hamlet. From these successes in the twofold direction of beauty and goodness in the field, Hamlet was in high fashion until the appearance of Sir R. Garth's Drake, since which the contest between the stock of those two dogs has been maintained with varying results, there being little difference in the number of wins between Viscount Downe's Bang II., Mars, Grace II., and Drake II., together with Mr. Lloyd Price's Mallard and Beau, and Mr. Statter's Dick; and, on the other hand, Mr. Whitehouse's Priam, Rap, Pax, Nora, and Blanche. Besides these may be mentioned Mr. Brackenbury's Romp and her produce by Chang, Mr. Whitehouses Rapid, and Mr. Fairhead's Romp.

I have made this quotation as some proof of what I had written as to there being nothing in the colour of a pointer that would indicate either pace, staunchness, or stamina, and Mr. Whitehouse, by sticking consistently to the orange or lemon and whites, has convinced most people that the dogs of this colour

are as hardy as those of any other. Priam and Rap of his never had their superiors, and though Mr. Whitehouse does not give so much time to his pointers as formerly, he has been the means of popularising the "lemons and whites" in such a fashion that they are not likely to die out. Northwards, the county of Durham seems to have obtained a strong strain of this colour, and at the Darlington shows, held annually at the end of July, a capital display of them is usually seen, indeed, nearly all the shooting men in that locality have had at one time or another, and still have, lemon and white pointers in their kennels.

There was that good dog Don IX., and several others with which Mr. Ridley (Ferryhill, Durham), was so successful. The Peases, too, had them, and this kennel included some of the smartest small-sized dogs I ever saw. The dam of the writer's old bitch, Miss Prim, who did a good deal of winning in her time, and was as good as anything else in the field, was from the Durham side—a remarkably handsome bitch, spoiled by being wide in front, but this was due to the accident of bad rearing, and was not constitutional. The late Mr. G. Maw, of Bishop Auckland, had an extra good lemon and white in Peg, fast and good, and who was, unfortunately, run over and killed by a train earlier on that fatal day

when her owner received injuries that resulted in his death.

The peculiar character of the pointer may be proved by the example of this bitch, and there is no doubt that, when roused, the pointer is far more determined than the setter, and can better hold his own in fight than the longer-coated dog. When Peg was quite a puppy, it was her misfortune to be run over by one of those cyclists who in their road races become such a nuisance, and so bring discredit upon a useful and healthy pastime. The bitch was not much hurt, but she bore bicycles a grudge ever after, and unless her owner had her hard at his heels when a "machine" approached, Peg went for it with a vengeance, and never failed to upset the luckless rider, often to his injury, and, on more than one occasion, to the cost of Mr. Maw. It was strange that this bitch, so well trained and broken on game, staunch and obedient to perfection, should be quite oblivious to, and heedless of, her owner's whistle and voice when the ring of the cycle bell was heard, or the machine itself loomed in the distance.

Whilst on these lemon and white or orange and white pointers, it may be as well to mention another strain, though this was more successful on the bench than in the field. This belonged to Mr. C. W. Brierley, then living near Manchester, but who now

has left his favourite dogs for the newer love of "pedigree" shorthorns. Then into the teens of years ago, Mr. C. H. Mason, Yorkshire, was showing and winning with a number of good dogs, but when he went to the United States, where he is now one of the leading authorities on canine matters, his kennels were dispersed.

Of late years Devonshire has become the favourite county in England for its strains of pointers, most of which are liver and white in colour, though occasionally those of the lemon and white crop up. As to these Devonshire pointers, a well-known west country sportsman kindly contributes the following:

No other country can lay claim to older pointer blood than that which is found in Devonshire. If we carefully go through the pedigrees of the field trial performers and bench winners of the present day, whether in our own country or in America, we shall almost invariably find that those which take premier honours can trace back to the old Devon sort. Long before dog shows and field trials became fashionable Devon pointers were distinguished for their high quality, for their total freedom from anything approaching the hound cross, and for their natural working characteristics, such as staunchness on point, range, and readiness to back.

Probably the variety of work which this county affords has something to do with the stoutness and symmetry which were always reckoned essential to good breeding by our old sportsmen. Steep hills, often covered with stone and rock, and deep and holding moorland, render muscle and lifting power, good legs and feet, a necessity, consequently we find these points kept in the foreground, and handed down to us almost as heirlooms of

the breed. Would that the same care and judgment had been taken with the brisk little Devon spaniel, whose qualities were as defined and distinct as those of the pointer, but whose symmetry of late years has been sacrificed to fashion, which has rendered him less able to work thick covert and thorny hedgerow.

Whether dog shows are in any way responsible for the deterioration of this useful breed, it is not my intention to inquire; I will, however, confidently assert that to dog shows and field trials we owe much of the all-round improvement so perceptible in the breed of pointers generally, and those of Devonshire in particular. The opportunities which these meetings afford of discussing the merits and characteristics of the different strains, is of incalculable value to breeders, and frequently lead to the interchange of blood, which above all else is so necessary for the keeping up of stamina and keen working qualities.

One of our earlier Devon breeders, who recognised the wisdom of an infusion of fresh blood, was Mr. W. Francis, of Exeter—a thorough sportsman, whose kennels were never without the right sort for hard work—his frequent companion in the field was the late Mr. Samuel Price, of Bow. It is hardly to be wondered at that two such enthusiasts working together, were successful in maintaining the reputation of their kennels. At that time dog shows were in their infancy; however, that good authority the Rev. T. Pearce ("Idstone"), while on a visit to Devonshire, had spoken so highly of the working characteristics and general good qualities of the liver and white Bounce—a well-known prize winner, owned by Mr. Brockton, of Farndon—that Mr. Francis and Mr. Price quickly decided on breeding from him. For this purpose they selected one of their best bitches, named Belle, whose dam Dido was bred near Newton Abbot, and was by Sancho, whose sire, Mentor, came from South Molton. This union of Francis's Belle with Brockton's Bounce gave us the sensational litter—Sancho, the black and white Chang, the bitch Vesta, and Random. So grand a team quickly gained for themselves a reputation on the bench, and we find Sancho and Chang

amongst the prize winners at Birmingham and other important shows of that period, while Vesta, judged by "Idstone," at Barnstaple and other local shows, usually won with ease.

As a matter of course, their blood was greatly sought after, especially by neighbouring kennels, and wherever it found its way it proved successful. For example, Sancho, bred to his niece Sappho, produced that nearly perfect specimen of a pointer Wagg, which was so successfully shown by Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Bala, and, bred to the late Mr. R. P. Leach's Fan—whose ancestors were from the North of Devon—produced Leach's Belle, probably the most successful brood bitch of that day. Amongst her numerous offspring were the Champions Bang II. and Bow Bells, Bonus Sancho, Merry Bells, Belle of the Ball, and Grant's Maggie, all of which were sired by Price's Bang. We shall find Chang best represented by his union with Romp, a small, compactly made bitch, owned by the late Mr. Brackenbury, of Exeter; her performances in the field were of the highest order, and her excellence as a worker was transmitted to her progeny. From these Mr. J. H. Salter's well known black and whites, alluded to later on, are descended.

Besides being the dam of Mr. Sam Price's world-renowned Bang, Vesta's name is brought down to us through her daughter Sappho, dam of Wagg, already named, and Pearl, dam of Mr. E. C. Norrish's lemon and white Beryl, a famous bench winner at Birmingham and elsewhere, from whom again spring Mr. Norrish's Revel III. and his Saddleback, that quite recently were almost invincible in the show way. For size, substance, and quality combined, Vesta would doubtless compare favourably with any bitch of the present day, and it has always appeared to me a regretful circumstance that Mr. Price allowed her to leave this country at so early a period in her career. From her the most conspicuous representatives of the Bow kennels are descended, amongst them being the above-mentioned Bang, who, with his son Mike, won for Mr. Price the Cloverly Stakes at Shrewsbury three years in succession; Belle of Bow, Lad of Bow, Lass of

Bow, Mealy, Bang's Boy, and Climax. The two latter were his favourites in the field, and it will be remembered that he had the brace actually in his hands at the time of his lamentably sudden death, the evening before the 1st September, 1887.

Random, the last of the team named above, mated with Mr. Huggins's Juno, gave us the typical Don Juan, sire of the well-known champions Ponto and Fan, from which Mr. Beck's celebrated Naso of Upton is descended on his dam's side, and of Fursdon Juno, dam of Graphic, another of Mr. Norrish's well-known dogs, and now in America. It is unnecessary here to follow the successful careers of Devon bred pointers in other countries, their good deeds would fill a volume.

Returning again to the progeny of Old Bang and Leach's Belle, Mr. Bulled, of Witheridge, was fortunate in securing one of these, viz., Belle of the Ball. Not only did she bring his name to the fore as a prize winner, but she enabled him to hold his own in the strongest competition. One of the earliest of her progeny was Sambo the Devil, who from the time of his *début* at Margate in 1879, scored prize after prize, which quickly ran him into champion honours. Amongst other good ones which the Witheridge kennel bred from Belle of the Ball was the field-trial performer, Lass of Devon, who was by Mr. Stranger's Don of Devon, and Devon Noble. More recently Mr. Bulled has been successfully breeding from the Village Star, a daughter of Devon Jack—Bell Bona, litter sister to Bonus Sancho. From her came his present day field trial and bench winners Devonshire Nero, Devonshire Sall, and Devonshire Lady.

However, the most successful of all Devonshire kennels, especially on the show bench, is that of Mr. E. C. Norrish, of Gays, Sandford, near Crediton. Nor has Mr. Norrish restricted himself to the ordinary dogs of the ring, he having latterly made entries at the Field Trials, where dogs broken by himself have, as a rule, performed fairly, though not quite so successfully as might be wished. There is no doubt that for some years back the Sandford pointers have obtained great celebrity and been pre-

eminent almost in sustaining the prestige of the West country strain. Such good animals as Graphic, Saddleback, Vesper, Saddleback II., Revel, Beryl, without others that could be named, and equally first class, are quite sufficient to gain a reputation for any kennel.

Other noted Devonshire pointers are those of Mr. Lloyd-Lloyd, of Totnes, who, as far back as 1875, I find exhibiting a bitch named Adele. From her, by Mr. Sam Price's Old Bang, he bred Hebe, who, in turn, being put to Lord Downe's Bang II. produced the field trial winners Fatima, Elias, and Hero, whose excellence cannot be gainsaid. Hebe's next litter, with Mr. W. Lort's Naso as their sire, included the good looking brace Totnes and Daphne, and the former, in alliance with Mr. J. Fletcher's Young Ponto, produced Nan, who, when the property of Mr. C. H. Beck, was the dam of Naso of Upton, by many persons considered to be one of the very best pointers ever bred, at any rate, so far as beauty was concerned.

To Daphne Mr. Lloyd owes much of his early reputation as a successful breeder. Her career on the bench was brilliant. Shown always in the pink of condition, only bitches of extra merit could compete with her, moreover she transmitted to her progeny many of her most taking qualities, and some of the best in the Totnes kennels at the present day are directly descended from her. By her union with Mr. Norrish's great dog Graphic, she produced Zasme, Zero, and Zeus. The latter was a frequent winner at some of our principal shows, and, by mating him back to Old Hebe, Mr. Lloyd bred the remarkably handsome brace of bitches Ilma and Lady Jane. Many connoisseurs considered Lady Jane the best of the two. She was, however, some years since, sold to a gentleman in Russia, and we have thus lost sight of her. Ilma is with us still, and has, during the present year, bred a good litter by Mr. Raper's Naso of Strasburg—a descendant of Price's old champion Bang. Another good litter which Mr. Lloyd bred from Daphne was that by Mr. Wroth's Don, the best of which were the well-known Totnes Parody and the lemon and white Totnes Onyx.

That strain, of which Wroth's Don is a representative, deserves a passing notice. His dam, Mr. Andrew's Sappho, came directly from the Croxteth kennels, and was by Lord Sefton's Sam—his Flirt, while his sire, Mr. Norrish's Old Bob, was equally well bred, being by Mr. Whitehouse's renowned Hamlet—Pearl, Hamlet's granddaughter.

Mr. Norrish's Donald, Revel, and Digby were all of the same family as Wroth's Don. Donald, it will be remembered, won at Birmingham in the small sized dog class in 1879. After scoring a few more prizes, he went to America, where he continued his successful career, and his blood was sought after by some of the most prominent breeders of that country. Revel ran well at the Kennel Club Field Trials at Blandford, and also won on the bench, but unfortunately died when young in Mr. Arkwright's kennels. Digby proved himself sire of Lady Digby, from whom sprang Count de Beauffort's Master Dan, a large-sized dog, whose *début* at the Alexandra Palace, where he won first prize, caused quite a flutter. One other representative of this family I must not be forgetting, namely, Mr. Leach's Mina Juno, a daughter of Wroth's Don—Fursdon Juno. From Mina Juno came Mr. Norrish's Sandford Vesper and Saddleback Secundus, both by Saddleback.

A familiar name amongst pointer breeders at the present day is that of Mr. R. Stawell Bryan, of South Molton. Coming out first as a successful poultry exhibitor, principally in the game and Azeel classes, it was not a very big jump from poultry to pointers; and all the more easy as he had been a thorough sportsman from his boyhood, and knew practically what a pointer's work should be. Possessing a good strain to start with, he has consistently bred for size, substance, and working characteristics. Well do I remember Beta some ten years ago, when she was on a stud visit to Mr. Leach's grand old Bang II. One of the offspring of this union was Molton Broom, who can surely claim to be the very corner stone of Mr. Bryan's kennels. Her litter brother, Molton Baron, was also extra good, his best progeny at the present day

being Mr. Bulled's Devonshire Nero, already mentioned, Molton Byrsa, and Banker. The latter was good enough to win at Barn Elms, the Crystal Palace, and other large shows. Beta's pedigree traces back on her dam's side to Mr. Whitehouse's blood, while her sire was a brother to Mr. Stranger's well-known Don of Devon. Probably no pointer bitch of the present day has been more successful than Molton Broom, whose chief progeny, by Saddleback, are Molton Banner, Molton Brake, Molton Bronte, Sandford Bang, Sandford Quince, Sandford Revel, Beau o' the Border, and Heather Graphic, all of which have gained their laurels in high class company. Molton Broom also bred well to Mr. Lloyd's Totnes Milo, a son of Zero—Zoe, and produced the stoutly-made Bracken, from whom again sprang Sandford Graphic, sire of Mr Norrish's Graphic Secundus, who was first in the open and first in the Novice Class at the Kennel Club Show last July, but unfortunately succumbed to distemper shortly after.

It would be by no means difficult to find other kennels of pointers in our county. Mr. Scratton, of Ogwell, always has some good dogs, as also have Mr. Cross, of South Molton, Mr. Pring, of Exeter, and Mr. Elias Bishop, of Ogwell. Mr. C. Ford, of Stoke Cannon, deserves especial notice, as being the breeder of this year's (1892) leading field trial performer, Blanche of Bromfield, winner at the Shrewsbury, Pointer Club, and Irish Trials. This bitch is by Mr. Ford's Okhay Mars, out of his Okhay Juno, a litter brother and sister, by his Mars—Belle, bred by Mr. Norrish, out of old Fursdon Juno, champion Graphic's dam, while Mars was by Bacchus out of Norrish's Pearl, litter sister to Price's Bang.

Devonshire pointer breeders must be congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts in spite of the fact that so many good dogs have left that county for other parts of the world. Devonshire is essentially a breeding corner, favoured by climate, winter puppies can easily be reared, and as nearly as possible brought to perfection. Fortunately, too, the driving of partridges is almost unknown in the west, and, so long as the pointer is used

as a sporting dog, he will undoubtedly hold his own, but directly his hunting instincts are allowed to rust, and he is only kept for the show bench, his best days are numbered.

Of course, in addition to these Devonshire dogs, equally good pointers are to be found in various kennels in different parts of Great Britain. For instance, at Rhiwlas, near Bala, in North Wales, Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price possesses dogs that are equal to the best of them, some of which have already been alluded to. For many years past, the Rhiwlas kennels have been well represented at the field trials, running as a rule consistently, and with success. Drafts are sold annually at Aldridge's, in St. Martin's Lane, and bring excellent prices. At his last sale, in June, 1892, the bitch Saule, that had won at field trials, realised 80 guineas, and others brought up to 36 guineas each.

So far as these important sales are concerned, they have of late been looked forward to with great interest, as they enable those who have shootings, and do not keep dogs all the year round, to fill their kennels with either pointers, setters, spaniels, and retrievers that have been well broken. At Mr. Pilkington's sale, in June, 1884, four and a half brace of puppies sold for 418 guineas; Lymm, by Lake, realising 110 guineas; Peace, 60 guineas; Pardon, 56 guineas; Lincoln, 57 guineas; others, smaller

sums. At the same auction the old dogs sold almost as well, Dingle bringing 63 guineas; Lilac and Lake, 61 guineas each; Moffatt, 55 guineas; and Druid, 46 guineas.

All the dogs offered by auction do not realise the good figures one would expect, and it was almost sad to see the kennel of the late Mr. T. Statter dispersed one Friday afternoon in June, 1892, for almost an old song—seven brace of pointers, as good as man could produce, and upon which their late owner had spent much money and much thought, realising only 143 guineas. His setters brought even a lower average.

Another celebrated kennel of pointers is to be found near Whitchurch, Salop, and owned by Mr. Heywood Lonsdale, of Ightfield Hall. The Ightfield pointers have, during the past few years, been more successful than any others in field trial work at the English trials. But this has not satisfied their owner, for, in 1890, a team of his was sent over to America for field competition there. Notwithstanding the fact that the English dogs had never had an opportunity of hunting quail, the game bird of America, as the partridge is here, they soon took a liking to their new quarry, and acquitted themselves most satisfactorily, the liver and white bitch, Deuce, taking the highest honours,

as she had done in this country before and has done since.

Also in Shropshire, there is another valued kennel of pointers kept by Colonel Cotes, at Pitsford, and in work they are just as good as any others. It may be stated that the majority of these field trial dogs are, as a rule, rather higher on the leg, and generally built in more racing lines, or not so cobbily and heavily made as the pointers we see winning on the show bench. As a rule, they are good-looking enough for anything, and dogs like Ightfield Dick, and Ightfield Deuce, both shown at the Kennel Club Show, in June, 1892, are particularly smart, in this respect, the first named especially.

The Rev. W. J. Richardson, in Oxfordshire, and his neighbour, the Rev. J. Pooley, in the same county, ought likewise to be mentioned as owners of pointers of undoubted excellence, Mr. Richardson having been especially successful with dogs of his breeding, both in the field and on the bench; his dogs are usually of the small or medium sized strains, and excelling in quality. Then, in Northumberland, the Rev. W. Shield has another useful kennel of dogs that can do good field work as well as appear to advantage in the ring. In Kent, Mr. F. Warde has another useful strain; so have Mr. F. C. Lowe, Sir T. B. Lennard, Mr. J. H. Salter, Mr. W. Arkwright,

Mr. R. Chapman, Glenboig, Mr. James Bishop, who, with many others in various parts of the country, have made a name for themselves as the owners of pointers of more than usual excellence. Mr. Barclay Field, who died in the early winter of 1892, also possessed a lot of dogs that had done good work at Field Trials.

Near Macclesfield, in Cheshire, Mr. C. H. Beck, at Upton Priory, has perhaps bred as good pointers as anyone during the present generation. His Rapid Ben, Busy Ben, Quail of Upton, Quits Baby were equally good in looks and work, and Naso of Upton, so successful on the bench, has already been mentioned.

Perhaps no one has had a more successful lot of pointers, so far as field trial work is concerned, with the slight addition of good looks, than Mr. J. H. Salter, of Tolleshunt d'Arcy, Kelvedon, Essex. Some of his very best dogs have been black or black and white, and, in one or two cases, brown, or liver and white ticked, oddly marked, almost, approaching "roan" in appearance. They were originally descended from Mike and Romp, the latter being by Francis's Chang out of Brackenbridge's Romp; Mike by Price's Bang—Miller's Sella, and moreover they went back to Brockton's Bounce and Whitehouse's Hamlet. There never was better blood

than this, and, judiciously used, Mr. Salter has produced therefrom some of the fastest dogs of the present day. He had given Mr. Samuel Price, of Bow, Devonshire, a long price for Mike in 1876, and perhaps this dog, with his sire Bang, were as good a brace of pointers as ever ran, and Romp was not far behind them.

One who has often shot over both Mike and Romp said there was nothing between the two, excepting that when any particularly brilliant piece of work came to be done it was the bitch that did it. Mr. Salter believes that the excellence of the strain arose from the dam's side rather than that of the dog, and, from what I have seen of Bang and Romp's progeny in other kennels, I believe this supposition to be quite correct.

At our English field trials the Mike-Romp strains have won, in the United States likewise; and there is no reason to doubt that the most valuable kennel of pointers in the States at the present time is that of Mr. Dexter. Such dogs as his Rip-Rap, Maid of Kent, and one or two others, one would very much like to see competing in this country, for, from the reports in the American Press, their work, and especially that of Rip-Rap, must be well-nigh perfect.

Romp, a black and white mottled bitch, ran at

Horseheath and other meetings in 1876–7, and she, no doubt, got her colour from Francis's strain, which were, as a rule, black and white. Mr. Salter speaks in the highest terms of them, of their great sense, speed, nose, and endurance. He says they are difficult to break because the "ordinary breaker will not give them credit for knowing more than he does; hence the whip comes in, a thing they never want and never forget." Mr. Herbert Brown has perhaps been most successful in training these pointers. "He never flogged, and patience and careful study told him that, when he and they disagreed in opinion, the dogs were almost always right and he wrong."

I have repeatedly seen this strain of dogs perform at our English Field Trials, and at times their work could not be surpassed. The dogs had pace, nose, and knowledge—the latter often caused their downfall. However, no pointer kennel of the limited dimensions of Mr. Salter has ever produced such excellent performers as Romp, Mike, Romp's Baby, Monitor, Mainspring (a great winner in America), Malt, Hops, Shandygaff, and some others have proved themselves to be.

Malt's visit to old Priam (then Sir T. B. Lennard's) was most successful, for it produced, amongst others, Osborne Ale and Stout that ran

respectively first and third in the Field Derby in 1885, and she herself had won at Stratford-on-Avon the year before. To Naso of Upton she bred Shandygaff and others. Some other crosses did not appear to "nick" so well, and since then she has failed to breed. It is a great pity that this same strain had not been kept in more than one kennel. It would have allowed some in-breeding, and I am afraid that, in the long run, it may be lost.

The dog Mike, from 1874 to 1876, won nine prizes at field trials, six of them firsts, the remaining three he divided with other dogs. During the same period he was successful on the show bench, commencing with a second at the Alexandra Palace in 1875, and a first at the Crystal Palace next year. Mike died in 1884, leaving behind him a reputation as one of the hardiest and best pointers that ever ran, and I am not aware that any other pointer has approached his record, both in the field and on the bench.

Somewhat at random, I have mentioned these names in order to show that the pointer, in all its excellence, is a common commodity, although a valuable one with us. His pedigree is rigorously kept in the stud books, and his performances in the spring are studiously repeated in the columns of the *Field*, and to give the names of all the best dogs

that have appeared during the past twenty years would be but repetition, and a difficult thing to accomplish satisfactorily. Prince Solms, at Braunfels, in Prussia, has, at one time or another, had English pointers equal to the best that have remained in this country, and the writer will never forget the excellent work his brace, Naso of Kippen and Jilt of Braunfels, did on the dry fallow field near Shrewsbury in 1885, at a time when every one had come to the conclusion that there was no scent.

Since the establishment of the Pointer Club, in 1887, a special Field Trial Meeting has been held by its managers, and at the same time special prizes have been offered by the Club for competition at the principal shows. This support, has, without doubt, proved of considerable advantage to the pointer, and, for the present, there is little likelihood of its popularity waning.

As a sporting dog, the pointer can work as hard and as long as a setter; on account of his smooth coat, he does this in hot weather better than any other dog, and is not so soon knocked up, through want of water, as the setter is. There is no reason to compare the varied excellencies of the two varieties, for here it may be said "Jack is as good as his master." One day, one may do the best work; another day, the others may excel; both are

sufficiently perfect in their way for modern requirements, and there is, in reality, no ostensible reason for the preference of the one over the other, excepting, as I have stated, where a scarcity of water is concerned. In fact, they are equal; with similar surroundings and in similar health there is nothing to choose between the two, nor is there in staunchness. It has been said that the setter is less steady, more difficult to command, and not so easy to break as the pointer. Such is not so.

There are strains of both that are equally wild and headstrong, and, as a matter of fact, such, when once brought under command, produce the most successsful dogs as field trial winners; and, when birds are scarce, and the extent of land to be worked over very extensive, they are the best dogs in the field for practical work. In a wet stormy country, where the climate is cold and chilly, the going rough and covert thick, the ordinary pointer may be at a discount, and he has been found to be so in some parts of Scotland, the Highlands and elsewhere; but, excepting where the circumstances and surroundings are exceptional, our modern pointer will do all that is required of him; work a long day, and come up the following one ready to do another, and to assist his master to fill the game bag.

I consider the usual light colour of the pointer is to

the advantage of the shooter, who can much more easily distinguish his dog against the dark outline of heather and bracken, when being used on the moors, and the idea that the birds better see a white coloured dog, and therefore do not lie so well to him, is altogether fallacious. All who have shot over the wide expanses of Scottish moors or Irish mountains with wide ranging dogs doing the work, will agree with me that the dark colour of many of the setters requires so much strain on the eyes to discern them at even comparatively short distances, as to decidedly interfere with the average of the shooter.

Before entering at length into his description it may be as well to state that the classes at the more important shows are arranged to meet his different sizes, for the pointer varies in this respect more than any other sporting dog. Such classification is usually for "large-sized" dogs 55lb. weight and over, and bitches 50lb. weight and over; the "small size" including dogs under 55lb. weight, and bitches under 50lb. in weight.

The pointer is an elegantly shaped dog, smooth in *coat*, which, though close and weather-resisting, ought not to be hard and coarse. In some strains there is a tendency to be rather coarse in the stern, which in reality is no detriment, though smooth and fine caudal appendages are fashionable. The latter

is so much the case, that it is not unusual to find it trimmed by singeing or other means, until it resembles that of a bull terrier. Not long ago one of the prize pointers at Birmingham was so very much "done" that disqualification ought to have resulted. The *stern* is nicely set on from the back, carried straight out, with a downward tendency rather than otherwise. A hound carried stern is a great detriment. In work it is dashed from side to side until the animal obtains "a point" when all the muscles are rigid.

The *head* should be fairly long and broad at the skull, and at the muzzle without any undue tapering; where the latter occurs a snipy appearance is given that is not at all correct. The development at the occiput should be nicely defined, but not too much so; there may be more stop than in the setter, and the head is generally rather shorter and broader than in the latter variety. *Ears* soft and hanging gracefully; although set on moderately low, not so low as in the hound, nor should they fold, rather lying close to the cheeks. The *nose* broad, nostrils wide, and such as will give the impression of being particularly useful in finding game by scent. In lemon and white, orange and white, and in light coloured specimens generally, the nose should be of a so-called "flesh colour"; in dark coloured specimens black noses are desirable. However, a dark brown or a

liver coloured nose is often seen, and when in unison with the body markings of the dog is not objectionable. *Eyes*, pleasant in expression, dark in colour; pale lemon or "yellow gooseberry" coloured eyes are on the increase, and such are objectionable, ugly, and ought to be a severe handicap on the dog possessing them. They are certainly not a sign of amiability. The *lips* should be square, and very slightly pendulous, or rather, less tight than those of a terrier. *Neck* well placed and free from throatiness in any part of it. As in all dogs good sloping shoulders are desirable. *Chest* deep, powerful, and ribs nicely sprung behind and carried so to the loins, which ought to be strong and muscular. Stifles well turned and powerful, and generally the muscular development in the hind quarters must be great, for the work a pointer has to do is arduous.

The fore *legs* and *feet* are important for a similar reason. The former strong, without being too massive and cumbersome; elbows fairly well let down, but not turned out, neither ought they to be turned inwards, for when the latter is the case the dog is likely to be flat ribbed and have his fore legs set too closely together, like many of the modern fox terriers. The legs ought to be well set on, and if carried too far back are objectionable, as a chicken-breasted appearance is given; and a dog so made

cannot gallop. As to the feet, the Pointer Club has adopted "Stonehenge's" description, with which I quite agree. This is as follows: "Breeders have long disputed the comparatively good qualities of the round cat-like foot, and the long one, resembling that of the hare. In the pointer my own opinion is in favour of the cat-foot, with the toes well arched and close together. This is the *desideratum* of the M.F.H., and I think stands work better than the hare-foot, in which the toes are not arched but still lie close together. In the setter the greater amount of hair to a certain extent condones the inherent weakness of the hare-foot; but in the pointer no such superiority can be claimed. The main point, however, is the closeness of the pads combined with thickness of the horny covering." So far as hare feet are concerned, an ordinary foot of this description would be severely handicapped by modern judges who persist in a hard close thick foot, which in reality is squarer and more angular than a round foot, but equally thick—even thicker.

Shape and *symmetry* are something in every animal, especially in short coated dogs. In *colour*, whether the pointer be liver or white or lemon or white, it makes little difference. Once the lemon and orange and whites were fashionable, now the liver and whites appear to be the more popular;

the paler lemon with a tendency towards whiteness is not good nor nice. Black and white pointers are handsome, and, possibly, were some breeders to introduce three or four perfect specimens on the show bench they might put the noses of the liver and whites out of joint. Liver and white heavily ticked is not a bad colour, but, as it nearly approaches whole colours, liver and black—because they are less easy to distinguish whilst being worked than the others—is not to be recommended, and in the ring ought to be handicapped accordingly. The best colours are liver and white, orange and white, lemon and white and black and white, having the precedence as written.

I should allot the points of the pointer as follows:—

	Value.		Value.
Skull	10	Legs, elbows, and hocks	10
Muzzle	10	Feet	10
Ears, eyes, and lips	10	Stern	5
Neck	5	Symmetry and quality	15
Shoulders and chest	10	Colour and coat.....	5
Back, quarters, and stifles	10		—
	—		45
	55		

Grand Total 100.

Perhaps I might be deemed guilty of a serious omission were I to overlook the fact that American and foreign admirers of the pointer have been more successful in producing good animals from stock

obtained from us, than has been the case with others similarly situated, who have sought to breed St. Bernards, Setters, Spaniels, and any other variety of dog in perfection; and more money has been spent on any of them than on the pointer.

South Carolina produced a Beaufort, whose excellence as a show dog has never been gainsaid, and for whom that good judge, Mr. C. H. Mason, of New York, paid a very large sum of money. Count de Beauffort sent from Belgium Master Dan, who beat our cracks at the Kennel Club Show in 1889; Mr. G. Raper had Naso of Strasburg from Germany, a dog that, when in his prime, must at any rate have been as good as the best; and other foreign bred pointers have on several occasions more than held their own at our usual field trial meetings. Nor does this short list by any means exhaust the names of the good dogs of the variety produced outside the British Isles.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE SETTER.

THE setter has been called by his many admirers the handsomest of all varieties of our English sporting dogs, and whether he be rich red in colour, like the Irish strain; glossy black and tan, as the Gordon; or gaudily blue and white, or orange and white, as in the English race, there is no more beautiful dog seen in our fields or on the show bench. Other canine varieties are bigger, some, of course, are more diminutive; in temper he is excelled by none, and, so long as his kindly countenance is not disfigured by light yellow eyes and a heavy cumbrous dewlap, nothing in the way of live-stock can be handsomer than he. His intelligence and utility in the field and on the moor no one will gainsay; so there is little wonder that his popularity has gradually but surely increased during the past quarter of a century.

There was a time when the setter was unknown in this country by his present name, and this cannot

have been at a far distant date. His old cognomen of spaniel still attaches to him in certain country districts remote from the railway, and in which old customs and old names die hard. Two years ago, whilst on a visit to Ireland, I repeatedly heard the modern setter dubbed a spaniel, and early in the present century the same dog was quite as often called a spaniel as not. "Kunopædia, a practical essay on breaking and training the English spaniel and pointer," by the late William Dobson, of Eden Hall, Cumberland, was published in 1814, and in this, one of the earliest works of its kind specially devoted to breaking sporting dogs, the word spaniel must be read to mean setter. The instructions given throughout the work are those likely to be useful in training a dog to stand, point, and do his work according to the modern idea of excellence in his line.

A history of the setter should, of course, commence at the very earliest portion of his career, but old writers are particularly silent on the point, even more so than when they have attempted to trace the rise and advent of other dogs, those used in the field for hunting, those trained to guard the flocks and the household, or others used as companions, as lap-dogs, for fancy and amusement alone.

In Great Britain the domestic dog has for hundreds

of years been held in high estimation as a useful addition to the sporting equipage. From time immemorial almost has he been utilised for the purpose of hunting wild animals, both by scent and sight, but when a variety of his kind was first trained to "set," "couch," or stand the smell of game, do so without going sufficiently near to alarm and disturb it, and so afford the sportsman accompanied by such a dog an opportunity of killing such game with an arrow from his bow or taking it in his net, history is not very explicit. H. D. Richardson, who, about forty years ago, wrote several little handbooks on country matters, including one about dogs, says that the spaniel was first broken to set partridges and other feathered game as an assistant to the net by Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in the year 1335. Whether this date be correct or not I cannot say, for the author does not say where he obtained his information. However, other writers, and perhaps more reliable ones, including Delabere Blaine (1840), say that "Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, as early as 1555, is said to have trained a setter to the net; and that other authorities of antecedent dates notice the sitter, or setter, as a dog used for sporting purposes. It must not, therefore, be concluded that the application of him by Dudley was his advent, although he might not until

then have been employed as "sitting or crouching to the game he found."

That the spaniel was well known earlier than the middle of the sixteenth century, and dogs of a certain kind were used for finding birds, under somewhat similar conditions as are observed to-day, long prior to the introduction of firearms, there is no doubt whatever.

First of all, such dogs as spaniels were trained to find birds at which the falconer flew his hawks. Strutt, in his "Sports and Pastimes," quotes from a fourteenth century manuscript, in the reign of Edward III., father of the Black Prince. This old writer, and interesting antiquarian, says the spaniel was of use in hawking, "hys crafte is for the perdrich, or partridge, and the quaile; and when taught to couche he is very serviceable to those who take these birds with nets." This is the earliest allusion I can find to trained dogs so nearly approaching in their work the broken setter and pointer of modern times.

The spaniel must have been a steady, highly-trained dog even then, and this taking of game by nets is, in some localities, unhappily, still practised by the poacher, especially at night time, when a lighted lantern is fixed on the dog's back. The blaze enables the poacher to see his dog, which, stand-

ing and drawing up to his game, when sufficiently close, comes to a full stop, and a net is drawn or cast over birds and dogs alike. Five hundred years ago there was some excuse for taking game by means of nets, but with modern firearms, breach-loading guns so quickly loaded and emptied, the net ought to have disappeared entirely. Still, its use is now confined entirely to some few ill-conditioned, grasping hill farmers, or the more sporting-like poacher.

There is an engraving (of the early part of the fourteenth century) still preserved in the Royal Library which depicts two ladies and one attendant hawking. Here are two spaniels of that day, odd looking creatures enough, with pendulous ears and long hound-like tails, evidently in the act of going carefully up to some game or other, and the attitude of the huntresses, with their hands raised and carefully poised, gives the idea that they are steadying their dogs with their ancient equivalent of "So ho! careful, good dogs!" The girl carrying her hawk on her hand is drawing the attention of her bird to the action of the dogs.

An earlier MS. than this is illustrated by the figure of an archer in the act of shooting a bird on the wing. This is from the Saxon of about the eighth century; the sportsman here is not accompanied by a dog of any kind; but this would scarcely be

evidence that a dog of some kind was not used as an assistant by the bird shooter, even at that early date. Such an animal, too, would be the original of our present race of setters though bearing scarcely any resemblance to our modern productions.

Naturally for information about the setter one will turn to the earliest book on English dogs, and this was written in Latin as far back as 1570, by the often quoted Johannes Caius, a Doctor of Physic of the University of Cambridge. This valuable and interesting treatise was, six years later, translated into English by Abraham Fleming, and published by Richard Johnes, who sold the book "over against St. Sepulchre's Church without Newgate," and no doubt it told all that was known about dogs at that time. Still, lovers of the canine race might to their advantage have had a more profuse chronicler, for, though fairly complete as far as it goes, there must have been more to write about dogs, even in the sixteenth century, than Caius put on paper. However, what there is we give, the quotations being made from the reprint published by L. U. Gill, at 170, Strand, London.

The first author of a book on English dogs says:

> Such dogs as serve for fowling are to be accounted of a gentle kind, and there be two sorts: the first findeth the game on the land, the other findeth the game on the water. Such as delight

on the land play their parts either by swiftness of foot, or by often questing, to search out and to spying the bird for further hope of advantage, or else by some secret sign or privy token betray the place where they fall.

The first kind of such serve the hawk, the second the net or train. The first kind have no particular names assigned them, save only that they be denominated after the bird which by natural appointment he is allotted to take. Thus, some be called dogs for the falcon, some for the pheasant, some for the partridge, and such like.

The common sort of people call them by one general word, namely, "spaniells," as though these kind of dogs came originally and first out of Spain. The most part of their skins are white, and if they be marked with any spots, they are commonly red and somewhat great, the hairs not growing with such thickness but that the mixture may be easily perceived. Others be reddish or blackish, but of that sort there are but few. There is also at this day a new kind of dog brought out of France (for we Englishmen are marvellous greedy, gaping gluttons after novelties, and covetous cormorants of things that be seldom, rare, strange, and hard to get) and they be speckled all over with white and black, which mingled colours incline to a marble blue, which beautifyeth their skin and affordeth a seemly show of comeliness. These are called French dogs, as is above declared already.

The dog called the Setter, in Latin Index.—Another sort of dog there be serviceable for fowling, making no noise either with foot or tongue whilst they follow the game. These attend diligently upon their masters, and frame their conditions to such becks, motions, and gestures as it shall please him to exhibit and make, either going forward, drawing backward, inclining right hand or yielding to the left. In making mention of fowl my meaning here is of partridge and quail. When he hath found the bird he keepeth sure and fast silence, and stayeth his steps and will proceed no further, and with close, covert, watching eye, layeth his belly to the ground and so creepeth forward like a worm. When he

approacheth near to the place where the bird is, he lays down, and with a mark of his paws betrayeth the place of the bird's last abode, whereby it is supposed that this kind of dog is called Index—setter, being, indeed, a name both consonant and agreeable with his quality.

Caius then proceeds to tell how the fowler ensnares the birds in his net, and he does not look upon the performance as very extraordinary, for such a dog is a "household servant, brought up at home, with offals and the trenchers and fragments of victuals;" and a hare, "a wild and skippert beast, has been trained to dance a measure, play upon a tabbaret, and nip and punch a dog with her teeth and claws." This performing hare Dr. Caius saw in the year 1564.

There is no mention of shooting birds over such dogs, but in a later chapter, when writing of the water spaniel, our author alludes to him as useful in bringing back the boults and arrows that have missed their mark [game], and also such water fowl as be stung to death by any venomous worm.

Although Caius uses the word index or setter in application to a dog used in a manner very similar to that in which he performs his duty in the present day, his tone of writing conveys the idea that such a dog was not generally known at that time. Still

there were certainly setters in the sixteenth century, and I very much regret Caius did not give us a picture of one "crawling along the ground like a worm."

As he did not, a search elsewhere must be made for an illustration, and this I found, and bearing an earlier date than the year when Caius first wrote his little book. In the summer of 1891 an exhibition of "Sport illustrated by Art," was held in the Grosvenor Gallery, London, and here were hung a large number of most valuable subjects of the painter's art. To me not one was nearly so interesting as a canvas upon which was painted one of the many delineations of the patron saint of hunting, St. Hubert, by Albrecht Dürer, the great painter, who died in 1528. In one corner of the picture was a black tan and white setter, extraordinary in its resemblance to many of the modern stamp. Indeed, so great was the likeness that one was tempted to look and re-look at the picture until the wonder was aroused where the painter obtained his model from which he made the sketch, or whether this modern setter on an ancient canvas was an emanation from his own brain. The head, coat, ears, character, and colour of the dog were all there, a typical specimen of the modern English setter in black, white, and tan—a dog similar in all

other respects, but higher on the leg and not so massive and inclined to the spaniel type as that excellent tri-colour dog shown by Mr. J. B. Cockerton, and winning recently under the name of Royal Rap.

Albrecht Dürer was a Flemish painter. Had he been from Spain, I might have taken his production as some sort of evidence that our spaniel or setter did originally come from Spain. All authorities say so, but produce no proof of the fact. The country of bull-fights appear to have been generally a happy hunting-ground for the discovery of valued strains of the dog, for, it has been said, the bulldog had its origin there. One great English admirer of the latter actually took a journey into Spain for the purpose of bringing back new blood of pure bulldog race, with which to cross and improve what he considered the degenerating bulldog of Great Britain! John Bull allowing his *fidus Achates* to degenerate! What an idea! I may say *en passant* that the big, vulgar Spanish dog, with his ears shorn off, that was imported, did not improve our native breed, nor has our British bulldog degenerated in the least. Even now, as in the day of Johannes Caius, we like something foreign in the form of dog flesh, and to Spain have we likewise flown for a coarse pointer; to France for poodles; to Holland for pugs; and to

the north of Europe and China for ladies' pets and toy dogs.

Before leaving the subject of old painters and setters, allusion must be made to a picture by Alexander Desportes, a French artist of great skill, to whom allusion has previously been made.

He was expressly employed at the court of Louis XIV. as historiographer of the chase, a position which his abilities enabled him to fulfil much to the satisfaction of his royal master. The painting in question is one of dogs and partridges. There are three of the former, two of them evidently setters and one of them pointing a covey, with one foot forward, is very much like the dog painted by Dürer, and already mentioned—namely, a black, tan, and white ticked animal, of quite the modern setter type. Another dog, on the point, is black and white, and a setter; whilst the third, also black and white, might be a cross between pointer and setter. Anyhow, it is much smoother in coat than either of its companions. I think little more evidence than the above pictures of great artists, need be given to convince those who may be interested in the matter and still doubtful, that the setter is not quite so modern a creature as some writers would have us suppose. At any rate, we have here proof that a dog remarkably similar, if not

actually identical, with our modern English setter, was known as early as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

There are many other paintings of sporting scenes and accessories that include dogs of some kind or other; but the writer has not met with any so old as those already alluded to where the artist has so nearly delineated the English setter of the present day.

Aldrovandus, who died in 1607, had written an immense work on Natural History, a portion of which was published posthumously. Amongst other subjects, he wrote about dogs, but, his history being in Latin, and somewhat scarce, a reference thereto has not always been attainable. He illustrates two varieties of what are called the Spanish dog, and one of them is described as having "pendulous ears, chest and belly white, with black spots, the rest of the body black." The engraving accompanying this descrip- is an odd-looking creature, one that might by courtesy be considered a bad spaniel. The stern is setter-like in length, but carried gaily over the back. The ears are very long, set high on the head, and there is a fair amount of feather and coat both on them, on the body, and on the legs. Aldrovandus's second specimen is a rather bigger dog than the other, and the colour might be black and white.

Here the ears are not so long, and generally this illustration is more of the setter than the one first named.

Strangely enough, this great historian, who bore a reputation for extreme reliability, gives us a third sporting dog of somewhat similar variety. This he describes as "a spotted dog used for taking quail." It has evidently had its tail amputated, or maybe it is a natural "bob-tail" some people are so fond of telling us about. In any case, whether the curtailment was natural or artificial, here is a bob-tailed dog, spotted almost as much as a Dalmatian or coach dog, in the act of flushing a bird. Unfortunately, Ulysses Aldrovandus does not tell us much about these dogs, but it is interesting to mention them here as early specimens of the dog from Spain, from whence it is said our modern races of setters and spaniels are derived. But when they came from that peninsula, or who introduced them eastward throughout most countries, there is nothing to show.

Then Conrad Gesner, whom dear old Izaak Walton was so fond of quoting, tells us something about dogs, but not much. Born at Zurich in 1516, he died of the plague in 1565, and between these two dates he wrote his chief work, "Historiæ Animalium," a volume that obtained for him the name of the

Pliny of Germany. Gesner says there were two sorts of dogs that follow their masters, who use a small firearm (*minor bombarda*) for the purpose of taking fowl. He, however, only alludes to them as bringing birds to their masters; but naturally education in the art of retrieving would follow that of finding the birds. So there is little doubt that these sixteenth century dogs that Gesner wrote about, not only found the game, but brought it to their masters when shot, just as a well-trained dog of the present would do.

Firearms and gunpowder had been introduced long prior to this, and, although the earliest firearms were big cumbrous weapons that had to be fired from a rest, tubes for firing gunpowder from the shoulder were introduced into England about 1440. From this date until approaching the middle of the following century appears an extraordinarily long period for the development of the firearm from an implement of warfare to one for sporting purposes. We must not, however, forget that in these early days of firearms, the wounds caused by them were almost always fatal, possibly not so much on account of the nature of the wound, but because the surgical treatment at that time was of an unskilful character. Such being the case, those whose pleasure it was to kill birds or other creatures would not care to do so with either a

"minor bombarda" or a "scorpion"—the latter a name given to the first shoulder firearm used in this country—for the flesh would be considered more or less contaminated by the influence of the missile used, so rendered less fitted for the cook in the kitchen to dress up for her noble master's repast.

This appears to me a reasonable conjecture for the slow progress made at this time in the popularisation of the firearm as an implement for the sportsman. Besides, the latter would be the more proficient with the bow, for the "scorpion" was but a sorry article with which to take aim, and the priming of the guns was something of a job to do. There were no flints then, and percussion caps had not even been thought of. As a fact, so recently as the end of the eighteenth century—viz., in 1792, a match was made and shot at Parton Green, in Cumberland, in which the merits of a musket, a brown Bess, were tested at a mark against a bow and arrow. The latter came out victorious in the contest, scoring sixteen hits out of twenty shots at 100 yards to twelve hits made by the supposed to be deadlier firearm. Looking back upon a match of this kind, one cannot help forming an opinion that the result was not because the bow and arrow were superior to the old brown Bess, but was solely owing to the lack of skill possessed by the handler of the musket.

When the prejudices against the new weapon had worn themselves out, no doubt its popularity increased apace. The Game Laws on the continent being less stringent than in England in 1555, it became necessary to have some legislation whereby the use of firearms should be restricted. Then we have the Elector of Saxony at that time issuing an order prohibiting the use of them excepting under certain conditions, and this because "the carrying of firearms had become so general in our dominions, that not only travellers but shepherds and peasants used them." Shot of some kind was used at that time, but not the well regulated pellets that came in somewhat later, and are used even to-day. In Mecklenberg in 1562 a Government regulation prohibited the use "of hail shot entirely and absolutely," so no doubt many birds in the duchy at that time would have a considerable respite. The dogs, too, would require to be somewhat steadier, for they must remain standing and quiet during the time their masters are taking aim at the quail or partridge, or the more timid hare.

Some time after this James I. was reigning in England, and no doubt he with "his shuffling trot and his jerkin" would be giving some attention to the dogs of the field, for was he not one of our most sporting kings? though he did not love the weed

tobacco. His Majesty took his dogs out with him on his favourite hawking expeditions, and they couched to and flushed the game at which the peregrine falcon and the goshawk were flown. One would have expected to find something relating to dogs of the field in the King's "Book of Sports," but the pastimes mentioned therein do not include game shooting, nor was it likely that his Majesty would deem an amusement of this kind fitted for the Sabbath day.

The early writers on sport, the "Stonehenges" of the seventeenth century, all allude in pretty much the same terms to the setter, and Gervase Markham, in his chief work with the odd title "Hunger's Prevention, or the Art of Fowling" (1655) describes what a "Setting dog" should be to be perfect in the eyes of the sportsman of his time. Markham says:

A setting dogge is a certaine lusty land spannell taught by nature to hunt the partridges before and more than any other chase whatsoever, and that with all eagernesse and fiercenesse, running the fields over so lustily and busily as if there were no limit in his desire and furie; yet so qualified and tempered with art and obedience, that when he is in the greatest and eagerest pursute, and seems to be most wilde and frantike, that even thus one hem or sound of his master's voyce makes him presently stand, gaze about him, and looke in his master's face, taking all directions from it whether to procede, stand still, or retire. Nay, even when he has come to the very place where his prey is, and hath, as it were, his nose over it, so that it seems he may take it up at his own pleasure, yet is his temperance and obedience so made and framed

by arte that presently, even on a sudden, he either stands still or falles down flatte upon his bellie, without daring once to open his mouth, or make any noise or motion at all, till that his master come unto him and thus proceedes in all things according to his directions and commandments.

This extract is somewhat interesting, if a little complicated, and without any further reference to the "has beens" of the setter, we must break into what he is in more modern days, when he is divided into three divisions—the English, Irish, and Gordon or black and tan varieties, and the former will have the preference.

Until well into the present century the setter was not so commonly used as an adjunct to the gun as the pointer, and even the writer of the article in the "Sportsman's Cabinet" said that at that time (1803) it was oftener used for the purpose of finding partridges to be taken with nets than otherwise. It had been trained to drop on point, and thus more readily was the net dragged over him and he and the birds encircled in its meshes. But he was highly valued as a sporting dog long before this, and there is extant a copy of a bond, dated October 7th, 1685, which carefully specifies the particulars of a contract for training a dog. This is as follows:

Ribberford, Oct. 7, 1685.

I, John Harris, of Welldon, in the parish of Hartlebury, in the county of Worcester, yeoman, for and in consideration of two

shillings of lawful English money, this day received of Henry Herbert, of Ribberford, in the same county, Esq., and of thirty shillings more of like money, I have promised to be hereafter paid me, do hereby covenant and promise to and with the said Henry Herbert, his exhors. and admors., that I will from the day of the date hereof until the first day of March next, well and sufficiently maintain and keep a spanill bitch named Quand this day delivered into my custody by the said Henry Herbert, and will, before the said first day of March next, fully and effectively train up and teach the said bitch to sitt partrages, pheasants, and other game, as well and exactly as the best sitting dogges usually sitt the same. And the same bitch, so trained and taught, shall and will deliver to the said Henry Herbert, or whom he shall appoint to receive her at her home at Ribberford aforesaid, on the first day of March next. And if at any time after the said bitch shall, for want of use and practice, or orwise., forget to sett game as aforesaid, I will at my cost and charges maynetayne her for a month or longer, as often as need shall require, to trayne up and teach her to sett game as aforesaid, and shall and will fully and effectually teach her to sett game as well and exactly as is above mentoyned.

JOHN HARRIS, × his mark.

The above is, doubtless, one of the earliest records to be found for training a sporting dog, and as such is worth reproduction here, especially as it evidently applies to the setter of that time, then known as the spaniel.

The varieties, as we have them now, came to be separated from each other much later, but they all, some time or another, must have been descended from the smaller and shorter legged dogs—the spaniels. I consider it unfortunate that there is so

little information extant as to the early history of the setter. What there is I have endeavoured to compress into suitable shape and form, and, perhaps, from the three following chapters, those readers who are interested in the subject will be able to obtain some idea as to the period when the ordinary setter came to be divided into the three distinct races, as he is found at the present day, and of which I should say that the black-and-tan is the youngest variety of all.

CHAPTER XV.

THE ENGLISH SETTER.

WITHOUT doubt, to the late Mr. Edward Laverack, who died in April, 1877, the present generation is indebted for the excellence of the setter, both in form and work, as he is found to-day, and, with few exceptions, the very best dogs are actual descendants of the Laverack strain. That there is, however, such a thing as a "pure Laverack" to be found now in 1892 I very much dispute. The best strains have a cross or two cropping in somewhere or other. Mr. R. L. Purcell Llewellin, to whom Mr. Laverack dedicated his volume on the setter, claims a strain of his own, which perhaps has been more successful than any other, both in the field and on the show bench. Mr. Llewellin has, however, kept it very much to himself, so the continuation of the general improvement, at any rate in appearance, of this dog, has been due to another source. This is from the kennel of Mr. James B. Cockerton, of Ravensbarrow Lodge, North Lancashire, who, in

reality, had his first setter from Mr. Laverack himself.

It appears that some forty years or more ago, the author of "The Setter" was in the habit of going into the neighbourhood of Mr. Cockerton's residence to shoot during September, and he left behind him, with the uncle of the latter, one or two setters, from which the present breed has, with the aid of slight infusions of other strains, been continued with extraordinary success. Thus they are more or less inter-bred, and resist very much the introduction of new blood. This, Mr. Cockerton has repeatedly found to be the case, he having on several occasions introduced a new strain by the purchase of a stud dog. In no instance has the progeny answered expectations. They were destroyed, and their sire came to a similar end. Latterly he has tried a well-known field trial winner, Dr. Wood's Fred, of great excellence in the field, and by no means indifferent in appearance. How the result has turned out it is yet too early to tell.

However, to the origin of the "Laveracks." We are told that Mr. Laverack first obtained his strain from the Rev. A. Harrison, who resided near Carlisle, and he informs us in his book, published in 1872 when he was seventy-three years of age, that he had been breeding setters for fifty years. His first fancy

for them must have been well on to seventy years ago. At that time, and for long after, the pedigrees of dogs were of little value, and, so long as the strain was good for work, and not bad to look at, people did not care a jot what the blood was. Mr. Laverack, however, had found that he could, by a few generations of judicious crossing, breed setters more true to type than others had done.

He was a sportsman, spent most of his time in shooting and in sub-letting shootings, travelled much in Scotland and the North of England, and so became acquainted with the various strains of setters then extant. Two or three years before his death the present writer repeatedly met Mr. Laverack, and a mutual admiration of the dog led to a considerable interchange of ideas on the subject, and on setters in particular. Although he would never acknowledge any cross from the original Old Moll and Ponto, which he had obtained from Mr. Harrison in 1825, I am not quite certain such was not tried. There were strains in the North of England that he valued highly, and which, no doubt, he would find useful for the purpose of putting vigour and size into his puppies, for it is a little against nature to produce in so short a time such good dogs as he owned by breeding from brothers and sisters, as he did with Dash I. and Belle—the one a black and white, the

other an orange and white. However, the pedigrees of Dash II. and Moll III.—the latter black, white, and tan, both great, great grandchildren of the original brace—are fully set out in his book, and, of course, cannot be gainsaid. It is, however, strange that the black, tan, and whites, and the liver and whites, of the same "pure" strains did not come out until the later generations, nor, until actually pressed upon the point, did he acknowledge that a liver and white puppy was the genuine article.

His friend Rothwell, who had the use of the best Laveracks for breeding purposes, wrote him that one of his puppies was liver and white. To this a reply came to the effect that it was all right, and that the colour came back from a strain of the "Edmond Castle" breed, Cumberland, which he had introduced about thirty years before! Rather a peculiar period for a cross to remain in abeyance before it came out, and which no scientist would believe possible. It is extremely likely that, up to a comparatively late date, Mr. Laverack crossed with the Cumberland and Northumberland dogs, most of which were liver and white; and so we have that colour in the setter to this day, and there it will remain. Fifteen years or more ago I saw several of these liver and white dogs that had more than a tendency to the top knot, which was a

prevailing feature with the Naworth Castle strain, and in another which Major Cowen keeps at Blaydon Burn, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Whatever crosses may have been used by Mr. Laverack, or by his friends, there is no doubt that such proved extremely useful, and have been the means of fully establishing the strain on a sound and substantial basis. In his own kennel, towards the close of his career, Mr. Laverack was not fortunate in rearing his puppies, and at the time of his death there were but five setters in his actual possession. These were Blue Prince, Blue Rock, Cora (lemon and white), Blue Belle, and Nellie or Blue Cora. The two latter were own sisters, and Mr. Laverack's housekeeper sold Prince, Belle, and another to Mr. T. B. Bowers for about 100*l.* The remaining brace ultimately went to Mr. J. R. Robinson, of Sunderland, who held a sort of partnership with the late Mr. Laverack, and had laid claim to the whole of the kennel; but the three dogs Mr. Bowers bought were sold even before poor Laverack was laid in his grave near the quiet little church at Ash, not far from Whitchurch. The Kennel Club Stud Books tell us how the blood of these setters has been disseminated since that time.

Mr. Laverack claimed for his dogs excellence all round in the field, and unusual stamina; indeed,

he talked to me of working them ten, twelve, and fourteen hours a day for a fortnight. That they were good dogs goes without saying; but "Stonehenge" did not care about their work in the early days of Field Trials, for he said they had not good noses, carried their heads low, and were lacking that fine tail action that he so much valued either in pointer or setter.

As a show dog, Mr. Laverack's Dash II., better known, perhaps, as old Blue Dash, was a typical specimen; and, about 1869 to 1872, was about the best setter appearing on the bench. He had size, bone, coat, and general symmetry to commend him, though his shoulders were rather upright and his neck not quite of the best, and his appearance would certainly have been smarter had he been cleaner cut under the throat. He was good enough to win at Birmingham, the Crystal Palace, and elsewhere, and in looks was far the best dog that I ever saw in his owner's possession. Another beautiful setter of Laverack's early strain was Mr. Dickon's Belle, and, it was said, both excellent in the field as well as in the show ring. So far as field trial dogs are concerned, Mr. Laverack mentions Mr. Garth's Daisy and Mr. Purcell Llewellin's Countess as the best; but, although both were fast, very fast, the one had but a mode-

rate nose and the other was said to be somewhat addicted to false pointing. Both were alluded to in the reports of the trials where they competed as faults, which Mr. J. H. Walsh considered to arise from in-breeding.

Allusion must be made to Mr. Llewellin's Dan, Novel, Bondhu, Dash III., Count Wind'em; Mr. Field's Bruce, and Lord Downe's Sam, who also went into the Llewellin kennels; Armstrong's Old Kate was extremely useful as a brood bitch to that family of skilled dog trainers; to Mr. S. E. Shirley's Rock, who, when tried, and subsequently perhaps, won more bench prizes than any other setter; to Mr. Barclay Field's Duke, a great field trial winner in 1866 and 1867; to Mr. T. B. Bowers' Frank, the handsomest orange and white setter of that time; to Mr. Armstrong's Dash, sold to Mr. Brewis. Mr. G. Lowes's Tam o' Shanter; Mr. Cunnington's Sir Alister; and many other celebrities in their day might likewise be mentioned.

Some of these improved Laveracks are not now so successful at the field trial meetings as they ought to be; but whether this arises rather from the lack of opportunity or from other causes it is difficult to say. As a fact, those persons who own the handsome dogs, mostly of the Laverack strain, that win on the show bench, do not, as

a rule, train them for field trial work. This has been noticed to such an extent as to draw forth the remark that the field trial dog and the show dog are two distinct articles. I am of opinion that the absence of the show dog from the public field arises from the fact that he has not been afforded training opportunities, and is not from natural unfitness. Of course, there are good and bad dogs of all strains, and it is not every dog, even from the best of parents that ever worked at a trial, that will come forward creditably in a similar position, and I am fully certain that, did Mr. Cockerton, already alluded to, enter his dogs for field trial work as Mr. Llewellin and others do their's, the former would give quite as good an account of themselves as the others.

Monk of Furness, one of show strain and a bench champion, was as good a dog in the field as ever ran, and at times, says Nicholson, had done better work than any other of his kennel. He performed creditably at the National Trials, though it was not one of his best days. He, however, was the sire to Mr. Nicholson's Master Sam, Mr. F. Lowe's little bitch, Nun of Kippen, and Mr. T. Lauder's Sweep the Green, whose public work was quite as good as any one need wish to see; and a bitch that Mr. Cockerton has now—one of the very best

of her day in appearance, Cash in Hand—can gallop almost as fast as a greyhound, possesses a fine nose and good natural hunting capabilities. If ever I saw a dog likely to do well at field trials when properly trained Cash was that one. Monk of Furness was sold to go to Canada for 230*l.*

Few of these show dogs are, as I have hinted, put into proper hands to bring out their working powers, hence, what may be called, the cross-bred dogs do best. Of these, the liver and whites appear to excel all others, especially some of those that had Baron Doveridge for sire. He was bred by Lord Waterpark, was by Fred V. from Rue by Drake—Rival; Fred, by Blue Prince—Dicken's Belle; thus combining two distinct strains.

These are by no means handsome dogs, but they never appear to tire, have good noses, and are always on the look out for game. Mr. Lonsdale's Woodhill Bruce and his sister Woodhill Beta I have seen run trials that could not well have been beaten; and both Mr. F. Lowe and Mr. F. Warde have had liver and white dogs of the same strains that did excellent work, Trip of Kippen not only running well as a puppy, but when an old dog it took some luck and a better animal to beat him. These dogs are, however, difficult to train, for as puppies they are very fast and terribly wild and head-

strong. When once finished it is not easy to find their superiors.

At the National Trials in 1892 Colonel Cotes ran a puppy called Dash, which was the result of the first cross between a Gordon Setter of Lord Cawdor's strain and an English setter. It performed very well, indeed; so well, in fact, as to win the stake, and make one believe that a combination of the strains would lead to working animals that would probably have no superior. This one had a fine nose, carried his head well, quartered his ground beautifully, and appeared to be persevering throughout, his natural qualities being good; and I take it that in the latter most important attributes "Stonehenge" considered the early Laveracks deficient. I do not think those that I have seen run from Mr. Llewellin's kennels of recent years are to be found fault with either as regards their pace or other capabilities. I think it was in 1889 that a nine months' old puppy of Mr. Llewellin's was entered at the National Trials, when he ran over a rough fallow, and by no means a level one either, in such a perfect, natural style, and at such a pace that I with others thought the stake at his mercy. However some trivial fault later on put him out of court.

Some years before this there was a much lauded setter called Ranger, whose pace and nose were

such as to make him almost invincible. Unfortunately, I never saw him run, and have heard so many different opinions as to his merits that I can say very little upon the subject. He was an uncertain dog, but, this notwithstanding, he must be included with the dogs of his time—such as Count Wind'em, Phantom, Drake, Dash II., Belle; with Countess and Nellie, who, at the Vaynol trials, in 1872, ran so well as a brace that they were given by the judges the full hundred points—as near the head of his race, and it has been said of him that when in the humour he was "as steady and dependable as a steam locomotive." During Ranger's career from 1873 to 1877 he won seven stakes and special prizes, and, if at times his work was not quite perfect, he, in the opinion of the judges, usually made up for some little delinquency by finding and standing birds in an extraordinary and brilliant manner. Ranger was a plain-looking—indeed, an ugly little dog, white with black and slight tan marks. He was bred by Mr. Macdona from his Judy by Paul Hackett's Rake—Calver's Countess; his sire being Quince II. by Jones' Quince I.—Lort's Dip.

An interesting trial would, no doubt, have been fought could he have been brought against Dr. Wood's lemon and white Fred, who proved himself

one of the best field trial dogs of more recent years. Unfortunately, he had not a long reign, flourishing, as our history would say, between 1891-92, both dates inclusive. Bred by Mr. T. Webber, of Falmouth, in August, 1886, Fred was by Prince W.—Moll W.; Prince by Sam IV.—Moll III.; Sam by Young Rollick—Nell; but Fred's dam does not appear in the stud books. He was a lemon and white ticked dog, well made and symmetrical, but scarcely up to high-class show form in appearance, his head being more characteristic of the Irish rather than of the English setter. Fred made his mark as a Field Trial dog, and perhaps on all points had never many superiors; although, on his first appearance in 1890, he was put out of the aged competition at the National Trials because he failed to back, and Mr. Llewellin's Satin Bondhu won the stake. The latter, if not quite so fast as Fred, had shown a better nose by finding birds the scent of which Dr. Wood's dog failed to hit, though the latter was well in front at the time. As is the case with almost all fast dogs, this failing to back was, at any rate in the early portion of his career, Fred's chief defect. He won four stakes outright, the special cup on two occasions, once he was placed third only, when without injustice he should have been second, and on two other occasions he owed defeat to his

unwillingness to back a point made by his opponent. Fred, who had always been a delicate dog, died during the summer of 1892.

Most of the best bench setters of modern times have come from the Ravensbarrow kennels of Mr. Cockerton, who has had them for some forty years, though he did not commence showing, excepting at a local gathering, until about 1881, since which time he has taken pretty much all before him, especially in the bitch classes at Birmingham. His best dogs have been Sir Simon, Madame Rachel, Cash in Hand, Belle of Furness, Monk of Furness, and there are more whose names do not occur to me. Mr. John Shorthose, of Newcastle, has winning dogs of much the same strain; so have Mr. G. Cartmel, Kendal; Mr. G. E. Pridmore, Coleshill; Mr. T. Steadman, Merionethshire; Mr. G. Potter, Carlisle, Mr. Robertshaw, Lancashire, and others.

Mr. W. Hartley, Kendal, has had good dogs of this blood, Mr. W. H. B. Cockerton's Lune Belle and the writer's Richmond being the best of his, and he who breeds such a brace in a lifetime cannot be considered at all unlucky. At Birmingham, in 1892, after winning in their respective classes, they were placed first and third in competition for special prizes awarded to the best setters of all varieties.

The best colours for these "improved Laveracks"

are blue or black and white ticked (or blue beltons, as they are called, taking this name from a village in Northumberland), orange and white ticked, lemon and white ticked, and liver and white ticked. The orange, lemon, and liver or brown, are found in various shades, but the lighter ones are the most desirable.

Allusion has already been made to the setters bred by Mr. Purcell-Llewellin, and by many persons, both in this country and America, known as the "Llewellin" Setter. Whether the strain has by its characteristics merited a distinguishing title of its own is a question upon which opinions are divided, but, as to the excellence of the breed in work, and many of them in appearance, there cannot be two opinions. In the field and on the moors they hold their own anywhere; but of late years, with a single exception, Mr. Llewellin's dogs have not been shown.

The following interesting description of the Llewellin setter with which I have been favoured will, I believe, form a valuable contribution on a subject with which the admirers of the strain are not well acquainted:

"This is a strain of English setter, formed by its owner, Mr. R. Ll. Purcell-Llewellin, of Dorrington, near Shrewsbury. The late Mr Laverack, in his book 'The Setter,' describes him as one 'who has endeavoured, and is still endeavouring, by sparing

neither expense nor trouble, to bring to perfection the setter,' and has for over thirty years experimented largely in breeding and crossing strains of setters. In due course he succeeded in producing the remarkable family of setters which now bears his name.

"Mr. Llewellin many years ago kept black and tan setters; though he did not in those days exhibit. These dogs, however, although he spent much time and pains over their breeding, fell short of the ideal in his mind of the highest type of sportsman's dog, and, having moors in Scotland, and shootings in England and Wales, to test his ideas on, he, rightly or wrongly, was fully persuaded in his own mind that it was hopeless to spend more time over the black and tans; and, after full consideration, he finally discarded them. This conclusion was not come to without long trial and experiment of all the best strains of the day, having, besides the well known sorts, many of a kind not generally known, such as those of Mr. Hall, master of the Holderness, and, above all, those of his intimate friend 'Sixty-one' (the Rev. Hely Hutchinson), which were bred and used long before the days of dog shows for work in the Lews, where 'Sixty-one' for many years held some 70,000 acres of moors. Mr. Llewellin had his own reasons for discarding

black and tans after experience of them for several years.

"He next tested the Irish setter, and in experimenting with this breed he followed on the same lines as in the case of their forerunners, the black and tans, *i.e.*, sparing no expense and trouble to get at the best possible specimens, and to try as many of the leading strains as possible. We find him therefore purchasing for £150 the famous 'Plunket' from Mr. Macdona, and dogs from the breed of the Knight of Kerry, from Colonel Whyte, of Sligo, from those of Cecil Moore, Colonel Hutchinson, Mr. Jephson, and several others. With these he bred, and some of the produce he exhibited, and his Kite, Samson, Knowing, Carrie, and Marvel, were excellent specimens of the Irish setter, winning him prizes on the show bench; whilst Kite, Marvel, and Samson, were successful in field competition.

"Nevertheless, after long trial, Mr. Llewellin reluctantly confessed that, though superior to the black and tans, there were certain peculiarities in the Irish setter which he wished to see modified. Hereupon he commenced a long course of blending and crossing of these breeds with others. The result of one of these experiments was a handsome bitch, called Flame, a show winner, and for reasons which Mr. Llewellin deemed sufficient, he sold her.

The blood of this bitch is still to be found in many of our leading bench winners at the present time.

"With all these crosses, however, Mr. Llewellin failed to satisfy his aspirations for a perfect working setter. Handsome many of them were, but he desired to develop certain peculiar field styles and methods of hunting in them, and which, as yet, neither the comparatively pure breeds alluded to, nor the crosses, had shown themselves possessed of.

"Mr. Laverack's breed was just about that time at its zenith, and, attracting Mr. Llewellin's attention, he hoped that at last he might obtain, in the so-called 'pure Laveracks,' what he had been seeking. He therefore, at a high price, secured the choicest Laverack blood, *i.e.*, that of Dash—Moll, and Dash—Lill. By this means Mr. Llewellin had succeeded so far in gaining all he desired, owning, as he now did, the beautiful Countess, and her half sister Nellie, and later on, Mr. Garth's Daisy, three of the most famous Laveracks in the field that ever lived. He also owned Prince, brother to Nellie, a very handsome blue belton dog and a great show winner for his enterprising owner, who, moreover, owned Lill and Rock, the latter afterwards drafted by him and known as Lort's Jock. Mr. Llewellin bred several pure Laveracks, amongst which were

the handsome bitches Phantom, Puzzle, Princess, all great show winners.

"Now, although Mr. Llewellin thus had the best possible opportunities and means of estimating the Laverack breed, he finally came to the conclusion that, however handsome at that time they were, and in the case of Countess, Nellie, and Daisy, good in some respects in the field, yet that, on the average, the pure Laveracks had too many unsatisfactory and inconvenient peculiarities of mind, habit, and instinct, to fit them for attaining his ideal. This discovery set Mr. Llewellin once again on the track of experiment, and, this time, with far more satisfaction to himself than anything he had previously experienced. The result was the breed of dogs which bears his name, and which has scored its mark so deeply in setter history. Mr. Teasdale Buckell, the gentleman who handled so many of his winners at field trials in former years, materially assisted in showing this variety to the world.

"The particular strain which is known as the 'Llewellin' setter is, therefore, a blend of the pure Dash—Moll and Dash—Lill Laverack, with blood represented by Sir Vincent Corbet's Old Slut, and with that of the late Mr. Statter's Rhœbe, as shown chiefly in Dick, Dan, Dora, Daisy, Ruby, &c., but, whilst those for the most part were somewhat coarse,

withal powerful workmanlike dogs, the Llewellin combination has retained the size, bone, and power, and added improvement in shape and make, so that the tendency towards coarseness, slackness of loin, and want of refinement, has been improved away, and the characteristic of the Llewellin is size with quality. That they possess quality and beauty of appearance their show bench achievements have proved, whilst at the same time their field trial record as a setter kennel has never been approached.

"In the days when the feeling for show bench honours was keener in Mr. Llewellin, his kennel had only to put in an appearance at a show to take nearly all the prizes. For years this was the case at the two great gatherings, Birmingham and London, the only places were they were exhibited.

"The sight presented by the setter benches in 1884, the first year that the Birmingham authorities offered special prizes for field trial winners, is well remembered by sportsmen. On that occasion Mr. Llewellin entered twelve field trial winners, viz., Count Wind'em, Dashing Bondhu, Dashing Duke, Sable Bondhu, Novel, Dashing Beauty, Dashing Ditto, Countess Bear, Countess Moll, Countess Rose, Nora, and Norna. Although there were some absentees, the team made a show of setters in itself, representing field as well as show champions—Count

Wind'em, a field trial and also bench show champion, for whom Mr. Llewellin had been offered, and refused, £750 and £1200; Novel, equally a champion winner in the field and bench shows; and that beautiful bitch Countess Bear, winner of the first field trial 'Derby,' besides other field trials, and several show prizes, both here and in America. Countess Rose was also a bench winner, and with Novel, winner of the Brace Stakes at the National Field Trials, on which occasion that well known judge, the late Sir Vincent Corbet, declared them the best brace he had ever seen. For these two bitches Mr. Llewellin was offered on the spot £1000. This same Birmingham team ikewise included three winners of the field trial 'Derby,' Countess Bear, already alluded to; Sable Bondhu, and Dashing Ditto; also Norna, Nora, and Dashing Beauty, all gainers of first prizes at field trials; besides Dashing Bondhu, winner of more field trial prizes than any dog, pointer, or setter, that ever ran, according to the field trial records in the Kennel Stud Book.

"The peculiarity of this kennel is that the same dogs unite in themselves, in a measure no others have done, first class show, as well as field trial quality. There are owners who have dogs with which they win on the bench but not in the field. Others, again, there are, which perform in the field

but would take a low place at a show. The Llewellin dogs, on the contrary, have proved themselves capable bench show champions; yet the doings of the self-same dogs at field trials would alone have been sufficient to place them at the head of the list, even if they had possessed no other qualification.

"Mr. Llewellin has never, at any time, cared to keep so large a kennel as some other setter breeders, nor does he rear many during the year, a fact, which should not be lost sight of when the large proportion of show and field trial prizes which have fallen to his setters is considered.

"The 'blue ribbon' of field trials is held to be the 'Braces Stakes,' and, next in estimation is the field trial 'Derby,' the latter being a Kennel Club event, and the former that of the National Society. Mr. Llewellin's setters have won the 'Braces Stakes' twelve times, and the 'Derby' four times, whilst running second for those events on additional occasions. The 'Derby' was won three years in succession by his dogs Sable Bondhu, Dashing ditto, and Dashing Clinker. On the occasion when Sable won in 1882, three other puppies from the same kennel ran, and the four were placed equal, though the owner preferred that Sable Bondhu should have the honour, and

so she was selected to run against the winning pointer puppy for the championship, which, as indicated above, she won. When Clinker won in 1883 something of the same happened, as he, with his kennel companion Duke Phœnix, had beaten all the other puppies, and Clinker was given the honour of running against the best pointer puppy, which he beat, and so won the great prize.

"Mr. Llewellin has not been a competitor at the Kennel Club Trials since 1883, he not approving of the action of that body in certain matters appertaining to sporting dogs.

"It should be noted that several leading American sportsmen imported some of his dogs several years ago, and that their workmanlike qualities and suitability to the peculiarities of American field sport brought them rapidly into favour, both in the States and Canada. The place they hold both at bench shows and field trials in that country is quite as prominent as it has been in the one of their origin. It is a question, however, whether the breed as it is now preserved in America is in all respects up to its original standard.

"It is interesting to state that Mr. Llewellin has never departed from the lines of blood with which he began to form his breed nearly twenty years ago. No outside cross of any sort or kind has been

allowed to invade those lines. The various families are strictly preserved, and the strong family likeness, with the peculiar habits and methods of working, and their power to transmit those to others, justify, I consider, their title to rank as a distinct breed, which fact is perhaps more fully recognised in America than here."

From time to time there have cropped up other so-called strains of English setters, but they have never possessed sufficiently distinguishing features to entitle them to a name or classification of their own. Personally, I have known more than one breed that better deserved a position of their own than some that strived to attain it. In Westmoreland, fifteen or twenty years ago, the shooting men in the neighbourhood of Crosthwaite had black setters, not more than forty pounds in weight, with little coat and no lumber about them. They were not of very great pace, because the small allotments there were not suitable for fast dogs, but their noses were excellent; they required little training, and had stamina enough to hunt every alternate day during the season. I believe that in Wales there was a similar strain of setter to this, which has likewise been lost—maybe by continual inbreeding.

Another class of dog I saw in the north many years ago was a pale red setter, with a double

nose. Their owner said "they were the best in the world," but difficult to rear, and seldom producing more than a brace or three puppies at a time. I fancy both these strains have disappeared with the "statesman" of the dales who shot over his own land, and could go over that of his neighbour were the latter not a sportsman himself. The surroundings of shooting have of late years changed in the north, and with this change such strains of setters as I have alluded to have disappeared.

There was another valued strain to be found in the kennels of the Marquis Breadalbane, and which I should not be surprised to find that Mr. Laverack had used freely. They were called "red marbles" or "blue marbles," the latter word possessing a similar meaning to that we attach to "mottle," "ticked," or flecked." Of this strain were a brace or two that "Sixty-one" owned, on which he set great store, and called Balloch setters. They were long, low dogs, with great bone; they had nicely-shaped, but rather short, heads; their peculiarity lay in having a thick coat of, so to say, "fur," almost wool, at the roots of the ordinary jacket—an undercoat, in fact, like that a good collie should possess. No doubt the extra coat, not noticeable without examination, was provided by nature to with-

stand the cold climate in which they lived all the year round. In other respects both coat and feather were soft and silky. These dogs were excellent in the field, carrying their heads high, and working for the body scent in beautiful style. I believe, too, that Mr. Llewellin had one or two of these setters, and his opinion of them as working dogs was high.

Much has at times been written of the Llanidloes setter, which, as its name implies, has its habitat in Wales. At a show at Welshpool, in 1889, a class was provided for them, but no prizes were awarded. The chief exhibitor was Mr. J. J. W. Dashwood, of Huntington Court, Kingston, Hereford. It seems to me that this Welsh setter is no more than an ordinary English setter, with little distinguishing type, excepting a coarse, hard, curly coat, and a thick, though long, head, may be deemed to constitute a type, which I do not think is the case. It bears a reputation as a close, slow, and methodical worker, and better able to perform the duties of an all-round dog in a rough country than the more fashionably bred animal, which is, however, fast supplanting the older-fashioned and more spaniel-like article. From what I have heard by men who have used the Llanidloes setter, it appears to be hardy, is not spoiled by being allowed to hunt covert for

cock and pheasant, and is thoroughly suitable for a "one dog man."

The Anglesea setter, the Newcastle setter, the Featherstone setter, and others that could be mentioned are but local strains of the general variety as it is diffused throughout the country. In no case have they been kept sufficiently pure to justify anyone placing them as varieties of their own. The Earl of Tankerville has had good setters, and so has Lord Waterpark; likewise, Mr. Jones of Oscot, the late Mr. F. R. Bevan, Mr. W. Lort, Mr. Bayley, Colonel Cotes, Mr. R. Lloyd Price, Mr. Cunnington, Mr. Paul Hackett, but none of them laid claim to any particular strain of their own.

The Russian setter has often been alluded to by previous writers. "Stonehenge" gives us a picture of one, but such a dog has either died out altogether or been returned to the country that gave him birth. As a fact I do not believe the Russians ever had a setter of their own. For years Mr. Purcell Llewellin offered a prize for him at the Birmingham show, but in no instance was there an entry forthcoming. Possibly, in promising such a thing the Welsh squire was poking fun at the breed, and, in a way of his own, endeavouring to prove to the public what he thought himself, that such a thing as a "Russian setter" had only existence in fancy.

Our English Setter Club was formulated in 1890; following, a description of the breed was drawn up and adopted, and I fancy its foundation was taken from Mr. Laverack's description in his book. However, I with others do not consider the club standard by any means what it ought to be, so in preference to theirs I give one of my own, which in the main is similar to "Stonehenge's" the one generally adopted.

1. The *skull* (value 5) has a character peculiar to itself. It possesses considerable prominence of the occipital bone; is moderately narrow between the ears; and there is a decided brow over the eyes. A sensible forehead with width enough for brains.

2. The *nose* (value 5) should be long and wide, without any fullness under the eyes. There should be in the average dog setter at least four inches from the inner corner of the eye to the end of the nose. Between the point and the root of the nose there should be a slight depression—at all events, there should be no fullness—and the eyebrows should rise sharply from it. The nostrils must be wide apart and large in the openings, and the end should be moist and cool, though many a dog with good scenting powers has had a dry nose. In dark coloured specimens the nose should be black, but in

the orange and whites, or lemon and whites, a coloured nose is desirable, though it must not be spotted. The jaws should be exactly equal in length, "pig jaw," as the receding lower one is called, being greatly against its possessor, nor should he be undershot.

3. *Ears, lips,* and *eyes* (value 10).—With regard to ears, they should be small, shorter than the pointer's. The "leather" should be thin and soft, carried closely to the cheeks, almost folding from their roots, so as not to show the inside, without the slightest tendency to prick; the ear should be partly clothed with silky hair, but there must not be too much of it. The lips also are not so full and pendulous as those of the pointer, but at their angles there should be a slight fullness, not reaching quite to the extent of hanging. The eyes must be full of animation, and of medium size, the best colour being dark brown, and they should be set with their angles straight across. The head and expression of the English setter are pleasing.

4. The *neck* (value 5) has not the full rounded muscularity of the pointer, being considerably thinner, but still slightly arched. It must not be "throaty," though the skin is loose.

5. The *shoulders* and *chest* (value 15) should display great liberty in all directions, with sloping

deep shoulder blades, and elbows well let down. The chest should be deep rather than wide. The ribs well sprung behind the shoulder, and great depth of the back ribs should be especially demanded.

6. *Back*, *quarters*, and *stifles* (value 15).—An arched loin is desirable, but not to the extent of being "roached" or "wheel-backed," a defect which generally tends to a slow up-and-down gallop. Stifles well bent, and set wide apart, to allow the hind legs to be brought forward with liberty in the gallop.

7. *Legs*, *elbows*, and *hocks* (value 12).—The elbows and toes, which generally go together, should be set straight; and if not, the "pigeon-toe" or inturned leg is less objectionable than the out-turn, in which the elbow is confined by its close attachment to the ribs. The arm should be muscular, and the bone fully developed, with strong and broad knees, short pasterns, of which the size in point of bone should be as great as possible (a very important point), and their slope not exceeding a very slight deviation from the straight line. The hind legs should be muscular, with plenty of bone, clean strong hocks, and hairy feet.

The *feet* (value 8).—A difference of opinion exists as to the comparative merit of the cat and hare foot for standing work. Masters of foxhounds invariably

select that of the cat, and, as they have better opportunities than any other class for instituting the necessary comparison, their selection may be accepted as final. But, as setters are specially required to stand wet and heather, it is imperitatively necessary that there should be a good growth of hair between the toes, and on this account a longer but thick foot, well clothed with hair on and between the toes is preferred. This hair on and between the toes acts as a protection on rough stony ground, and it is said that amongst the flints of some countries a setter can on this account work for a day where a pointer would be placed *hors de combat* in half an hour.

9. The *flag* (value 5) is in appearance characteristic of the breed, although it sometimes happens that one or two puppies in a well-bred litter exhibit a curl or other malformation, usually considered to be indicative of a stain. The setter's flag should have a gentle sweep downwards; and the nearest resemblance to any familiar form is to the scythe with its curve reversed. The feather must be composed of straight silky hairs; close to the root the less hair the better, and again towards the point, of which the bone should be fine, and the feather tapering with it.

10. *Symmetry and quality* (value 10).—In

character the setter should display a great amount of "quality," which means a combination of symmetry, as understood by the artist, with the peculiar attributes of the breed under examination, as interpreted by the sportsman. Thus, a setter possessed of such a frame and outline, as to charm the former would be considered by the sportsman defective in "quality" if he possessed a curly or harsh coat, or if he had a heavy head, with pendant bloodhoundlike jowl and throaty neck. The general outline is elegant, and very taking to the eye.

11. The *texture and feather* of coat (value 5) are much regarded, a soft silky hair without curl being a *sine qua non*. The feather should be considerable, and should fringe the hind as well as the fore legs.

12. The *colour of coat* (value 5) is not much insisted on, a great variety being admitted. These are as follows: Black and white ticked, with large splashes, and more or less marked with black, known as "blue belton;" orange and white, ticked and marked as in the blacks or blues; liver and white, ticked in a similar manner; black and white ticked, with tan markings; orange or lemon and white ticked; black and white; liver and white. Pure white, black, liver, and red or yellow are sometimes seen, but are not desirable.

Weight, dogs from 48lb. to 60lb.; bitches rather smaller.

STANDARD POINTS OF THE ENGLISH SETTER.

	Value.		Value.
Skull	5	Legs, elbows, and hocks	12
Nose	5	Feet	8
Ears, lips, and eyes	10	Flag	5
Neck	5	Symmetry and quality	10
Shoulders and chest	15	Coat	5
Back, quarters, and stifles	15	Colour	5
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE BLACK AND TAN (OR GORDON) SETTER.

THIS variety of the modern setter had its name originally from the fact of being first introduced to the public from Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Banffshire, the Highland seat of the Dukes of Richmond and Gordon. For what length of time the family possessed the strain no one appears to know, but that it was not there in 1803, when Colonel Thornton visited the place, may be taken for granted, as that gallant sportsman, in his "Northern Tour," makes no allusion whatever to any such dogs. He does, however, mention the Highland deerhound, and gives an account of a somewhat dubious cross the Duke had between a wolf and a Pomeranian dog, which, on being slipped at a deer, tore its throat out. Some early writers, however, have called the black and tan setter the "Scotch setter," and Mr. Thomson Gray, in his "Dogs of Scotland," adopts a similar nomenclature. This is not likely to

become general, as the more popular name has obtained the voice of the public.

According to the late Rev. T. Pearce ("Idstone"), who must be taken as an authority on the variety, about 1820 was the period when the then Duke of Gordon took his special strain of setters in hand; but as to where they came from, or how they were produced, no facts are forthcoming, and the result is left to imagination.

It is somewhat strange that two such observant sportsmen as Mr. Charles St. John and Mr. John Colquhoun, who, the former in "Highland Sports," and the latter in "The Moor and the Loch," wrote so charmingly of what appertains to dogs, shooting, natural history, and fishing in Scotland, should have little or nothing to say about the Gordon setter. They wrote some fifty years or so ago, and this silence must be taken as an indication that the Gordon setter was not a common dog then.

One much regrets that at the present time (1892) this old variety of setter is not to be found at Gordon Castle. Years ago the dogs there were bred to English setters, principally of Laverack blood, with the result that the valued and true type of black, tan, and white Gordon was entirely lost. The setters at the kennels now, as I write, and for some years, have been all useful working dogs of modern strains.

In England no doubt there had been setters of a black and brown colour from the earliest manufacture or introduction of the breed, and Gervaise Markham, in "Hunger's Prevention; or, the whole Art of Fowling by Land and Water" (1655), mentions black and fallow dogs as the hardest to endure labour. This description must be taken to mean black and tan, but not to imply that such dogs were similar to the Gordon setter of to-day. Again, a writer in 1776, who calls himself "A Gentleman of Suffolk, a staunch sportsman," says there were fifty years before he wrote two distinct tribes (strains) of setting dogs "the black tanned, and the orange or lemon and white." But from other sources we find the latter colour the commonest. Sydenham Edwards (1805), in "Cynographia Britannica," gives an illustration of three setters, one of which is undoubtedly black and tan in colour, but in type it has very little if any resemblance to the modern strain. Two white and orange setters are given in Bingley's Natural History (1809), and no mention is made of black and tan setters.

Our old friend "The Druid" (Mr. H. H. Dixon, of Carlisle), who visited Gordon Castle about thirty years ago, says: "We beguiled the way by a chat with Jubb, the head keeper, whose seven and thirty black, white, and tans, were spreading themselves out like

a fan in the kennel meadow. . . . Originally the Gordon setters were all black and tans; . . . now, all the setters in the Castle are black, tan, a d white, with a little tan on the toes, muzzle, root of the tail, and round the eyes. The late Duke of Gordon liked it, as it was both gayer and not so difficult to back on the hillside as the dark coloured. They are light in frame and merry workers, and 'better put up half a dozen birds,' says Jubb, 'than make a false point.' "

Various opinions have been expressed as to how the original black and tan setter of the heavy type was obtained. He was a bigger and coarser dog than any other of his race, and his deep rich colour, heavy head, preponderance of haw in many cases, and strong dewlap, betrayed a not very remote cross with the bloodhound; and, judging from appearances, I have not the slightest doubt that, at one time or another, this hound blood has entered into his composition. A single dash would do the trick nicely, and such would account for the tendency in some of the heavier Gordons to, like the Irish setter, hunt the ground when at a loss, rather than carry the head high and sniff the wind.

Impure blood such as this in the strain has never been acknowledged, but even admirers of the breed in "all its purity" have not objected to the state-

ment that at no very remote date a cross with the collie had been found useful. The latter may have been the case, the former more likely; and, as bloodhounds were not uncommonly used in some localities in Scotland for hunting the roe, no difficulty would be experienced in quietly putting a bitch to such a hound, and no one be any the wiser. The collie cross, some writers have said, could be plainly traced in the strains of many modern Gordon setters; in quite as many, the bloodhound cross may be more strongly noticed in the shape of head and general expression.

At Tattersall's, in July, 1837, five and a half brace of setters from Gordon Castle, and most of them black, white, and tans, were sold by auction, reaching 417 guineas, an excellent price. The highest figures were given by Lord Chesterfield for young Regent and Crop, they reaching 72 guineas and 60 guineas respectively, although the latter had had one of her ears eaten off by a ferret. Lord Douglas gave 56 guineas for Saturn; Mr. Martyn 106 guineas for a leash of bitches, and Lord Abercorn and the Duke of Richmond paid 34 guineas each for a dog and a bitch. This was but a draft from the kennels, for others had been privately purchased by the then Dukes of Abercorn and Argyle, and Viscount Bolingbroke got some likewise. This sale took place on

account of the death of the Duke of Gordon, and forms an interesting example of the price obtained for sporting dogs at that time.

In "Dogs of Scotland," by Mr. Thomson Gray (1891), a contributor gives some interesting particulars of the setters at Gordon Castle, and from the extract below it will be noted that he differs from what "The Druid" wrote and says. The original strains were black, tan, and white. "These dogs were seventy years ago of different colours," says the correspondent, "the majority being black and tan, and black, white, and tan. Some were liver and white, and black and white, and lemon and white was sometimes seen. They were famed for their working qualities, and, dog shows being unknown, good looks were of secondary importance, although the whole of the dogs were very stylish, and many of them exceedingly well marked. The black, white, and tans were heavily marked, black and white, with tan spots above the eyes and on the cheeks—the black and white clearly defined but not spotted. . . . .

"The black and tans were of a lighter tan than the black and tans of to-day, and often had white breasts and feet. The dogs on the whole had a heavy look about them, with spaniel looking ears, but excellent legs and feet, with wealth of coat and feather, beautiful heads and well set on sterns.

Light eyes were not allowed on any account, nor snipy noses. As workmen they were undeniable, and when the writer in question used them on the moors twenty-five or thirty years ago, they could easily have held their own with any modern cracks.

"The late Mr. Jubb, who had the care of the Gordon Castle setters for many years, could break a dog to perfection; the strain, though, was easy to break, and naturally backed well. They were not fast, but excellent in staying powers, keeping on steadily from morn till night, had good noses, and seldom made a false point." The same writer goes on to say, "As to the original colour, I had the particulars from an old man named Bill Rogers, who was about the kennel at Gordon Castle before the battle of Waterloo (this would be a very, very early period of the formation of the kennels), that the dogs were black and tan, black tan and white; liver and white (and sometimes lemon or orange and white), the black and tans, which often had white feet and chests, predominating."

Another authority, who often saw the Gordon Castle dogs, and was acquainted with Jubb, the head keeper, viz., Mr. E. Laverack, said that these setters were black, tan, and white.

Seemingly most of the noted kennels in Scotland had obtained their dogs, at one time or another, from

Gordon Castle, as Lord Lovat, Sir A. G. Gordon of Cluny, Major Douglas, Mr. Thompson (Broughty Ferry), Lord Panmure, the Marquis of Huntley, Lord Saltoun, Sir James Elphinstone, and Mr. McNicholls (Glenbucket), could all trace their strains to one common origin. From some of them I firmly believe the bloodhound cross must have come, for in no other way can be accounted the hound-like type that was not uncommon about twenty years ago.

Not very long since I was given a Gordon setter, said to be of the best blood, and it had cost thirty guineas in Scotland as a broken dog. Never look a gift dog in the mouth, but its breaking was a myth and its value in shillings! The first day I had him out the parish was not big enough to inclose him. He chased everything, and got into a plantation where, with nose down, and a whimper every now and then, he chevied the hares and rabbits to his heart's content—to my disgust. I was sorely tempted to shoot the brute. When tired he came to my whistle and had a right good thrashing; a five mile walk home along a hard road in pouring rain tamed him a bit, and as he had a sensible look about him I gave him another treat next day, over the roughest land I could find. Here, after a long trudge of some eight hours or so, he became amenable to discipline—

hunted and found birds by their ground scent, and worked more like a hound than a pointer or setter. Had he done like "Idstone's" Gordons, crossed with his collie, and gone round his birds as his ancestors would have done round a flock of sheep, I should have noticed it. He did not do so. His head was always down. A third day he worked well within range, answered to the whistle, and his old training had come back to him. He was, however, no use to me, so I gave him away. Now, this Gordon setter was good-looking, and from a strain that bore a reputation of being "pure even amongst the pure," but his manners and appearance were too hound-like to please me.

There is no doubt a screw loose somewhere in the Gordon setter, else he would be more popular now than he appears to be. With the early Field Trials he had much to do, with the later ones next to nothing. The Rev. T. Pearce's Rex and Kent, Mr. Adey's Kate, Young Kent, and Mr. J. H. Salter's Rex all performed creditably in the field; so did the Earl of Dudley's Claret and Dandy (Mr. J. N. Fleming's, Maybole, N.B.), the champion at Southill trials in 1865, but somehow or other this good work did not continue, and was uneven. Some dogs were slow and stupid; others fast and disobedient, and as a fact I have only seen two

Gordon setters performing at Field Trials during the past ten years that I have attended them, and I think this must be taken as proof positive that he is not so good as either the English or Irish strains.

Even on the show bench he is not what he was. Mr. Jobling's Dandie won the first prize at the first dog show ever held, and took the cup as the best setter in the exhibition. Then "Idstone's" Kent in his day (1863-65) won pretty well all before him in the ring, and created quite a *furore* when he first appeared at Cremorne in 1863, exhibited by Sir Edward Hoare. He there won the first prize, and, notwithstanding the fact of his being without pedigree, was purchased by Mr. Pearce for about £30. Although Sir Edward Hoare had obtained this dog from a rabbit catcher on the Hothfield estate, who said it had been suckled on a cat, pains were taken to find out that he had a pedigree. In the end his dam was said to be a black and tan bitch of "Adamson's," his sire Shot by Mr. Jobling's Scamp—his Nell, the latter by a liver and tan dog of Sir Matthew Ridley's. No doubt Kent was properly bred, for his stock were so far satisfactory both in field work and in appearance.

Perhaps there may be a brighter future for the Gordon setter now that a club has been established to look after his welfare. Still, it should have held

Field Trials in 1892 that did not come off, nor have any of the cups offered by the club for competition at the Kennel Club Trials yet obtained entries. As a fact, on the show bench, almost all the prizes are won by the very handsome dogs that have been introduced by Mr. R. Chapman, of Glenboig, Scotland. For many years he has taken considerable pains to produce neat animals. Those he shows us now, are very perfect specimens, and, as a rule, do not display the slightest trace of either bloodhound or collie cross. They are of the accepted black and tan colour, free from white, and in their prime, peculiarly rich and bright in their markings. I fancy to them we must look for any improvement that may be made in this variety, and with the assistance of the Gordon Setter Club in their popularisation. Mr. Chapman, who speaks highly of his strain as field dogs, considers them quite equal to any other race of setter he has ever used. It may be said that Mr. Chapman annually lets out teams of dogs for the moors, and his general surroundings and tastes allow him to speak with some authority on the subject. Still, we know that everybody's geese are swans and every man's dog the best.

Colonel Le Gendre Starkie, at Huntroyde Hall, near Burnley, Lancashire, has given considerable

attention to the Gordon setter, and at times has had excellent specimens. The gallant colonel repeatedly sends a dog or two to compete at the Field Trials, and where he has often judged, but I cannot call to mind any occasion upon which he had run a black and tan setter in public. No doubt had he had one fast enough and smart enough for the purpose he would have done so. Messrs. Greenbank, of Sedbergh, Yorkshire, have on occasions exhibited a good specimen or two, their White Heather II. being a particularly smart dog. At Maidstone, in Kent, Mr. J. R. Tatham is an admirer of the breed, and possesses several; so does Mr Manning, at Norwood, the secretary of the specialist club.

Another very old strain of Gordon setters is in the kennels of the Earl of Cawdor, at Cawdor Castle, Nairn. They have been there and highly valued about as long as similar dogs have been at Gordon Castle, and for a period of at least eighty years kept pretty well free from cross with the English or Irish varieties. Some of the dogs are heavily marked with black and tan, but none are without some white—tricolours in fact—handsome animals in appearance, and reliable to shoot over. At Beaufort Castle, Beauley, N.B., Lord Lovat has a similar strain, which has been in his family for many generations.

Although these old breeds have been kept as nearly pure as possible, and may be found useful in crossing with the ordinary English setter, especially when work more than actual beauty is required, I do not see any great future before the black and tan setter. He is not easy to follow with the eyes on the moors, and, as a rule, is not nearly so smart as either the English or Irish varieties, and I cannot imagine why even his most ardent admirers prefer him to others, excepting that a team of them match well. The latter fact has been at times of considerable advantage to Mr. Chapman in the show ring, where on several occasions a couple of brace or so have beaten all comers in the competition for the team prize. This they did, and quite deservedly, so recently as June, 1892, at the Kennel Club's show and at the Crystal Palace a few months later.

The following are the description and points of the Gordon setter as adopted by its Club, and from the facts I have given of some of the leading and oldest kennels being entirely confined to tri-coloured dogs, *i.e.*, black, tan, and white, it seems a pity such are not allowed in the Club's standard; nor do I agree with what it says about the "bloodhound" type in the dog generally and in the expression of the eyes. Such a cross has been there some time or other, but pains have been taken to "breed" it

out, and in no case where it appears so marked should a prize be given the dog, or should it be used for stud purposes. However, I give the following chief portion of the club's description because it was issued by an authoritative body :—

There seems to be little authentic information as to the origin of the Gordon setter. Authorities, however, agree that originally the colour was black, white, and tan ; the opinion of the late Dr. Walsh (" Stonehenge ")—that he is a compound of collie, bloodhound, and English or Irish setter, and that the foundation of the breed was derived from a mixture of these—is to a large extent borne out by the general character of the dog, as exhibited in the best specimens. Of late years no doubt the breed has been tampered with for show purposes, and crosses, more particularly with the Irish setter, with the idea of improving the colour, have been resorted to to the detriment of the dog, both for show bench and field purposes. Probably the pale buff in the place of tan frequently verging on stone colour, and the diffusion over the body, instead of being developed on the recognised points, is mainly due to this cause ; if so, it will require careful breeding through many generations to eradicate. . . . In the best bred Gordons we almost invariably find the leading features of the colley, the bloodhound, and the setter, and perhaps in about equal proportions, giving what we call the type.

The head of the Gordon is much heavier than that of the English setter, broad at the top between the ears, the skull slightly rounded, the occiput well developed, and the depth from the occiput to the bottom of lower jaw much greater than in the Laverack or English Setter ; the width between the eyes should perhaps not be too great, speaking with caution ; the nose moderately long and broad across the top giving room for the nerves of scent, in fact the opposite of snipyness, the nostril well distended, making this the widest part of the nose ; the shape of the under

jaw is perhaps a matter of fancy: old Kent had a very heavy muzzle and under-jaw, with remarkably bright and penetrating eyes, in these his likeness has been transmitted to many of his descendants in a remarkable degree. Many Gordons show slight "haw" and "dewlap," a proper development of these is probably the true type; the ears vary considerably, some being long, silky, and hanging close to the face, others much shorter; these are also matters of fancy, and therefore of minor importance. The body of the Gordon is also heavier than that of the English setter, but may be judged on the same lines; the tail is often long, giving bad carriage, this does not interfere with good work. The great beauty of this dog is his lovely colour, and as this in perfection is in no way antagonistic to his working qualities, great prominence should be given to it in judging. Formerly, without doubt, the prevailing colours were black, white, and tan, of late there has been but little white seen on the bench, this, too, is a matter of fancy; the black should be a jet, not brown or rusty; the tan should be a rich dark mahogany, and should be exhibited on inside of thighs, showing down front of stifle to the ground, the front legs to the knees; the muzzle also should be tan, the spots over the eyes well defined, not blurred, and on the points of the shoulders also: blurring and diffusion over the belly and other parts of the dog probably indicate contamination with other blood. It is of the highest importance, if we are to get back the real hunting qualities of this breed and the show qualities also, that purity of blood should be the chief aim in breeding; a first cross may sometimes *appear* to answer, but succeeding generations will certainly show the cross, and will deteriorate in all the qualities we prize.

A splendid intelligence, fine scenting powers, and great endurance are the main characteristics of the Gordon; if purity of blood is maintained, we may not only recover the qualities which some fear we have partly lost, but also develop their natural powers to an extent hitherto unknown. A well formed head is of the first importance, if we are to develop and maintain

that intelligence which is the great charm and usefulness of the dog.

Scale of Points.

	Value.		Value.
Head and neck	35	Colour	10
Shoulders and chest	12	Coat, feather, and quality	10
Loin and quarter	12	Tail	5
Feet and legs	16		
	75		25

Grand Total 100.

ARTHUR WARDLE '92

CHAPTER XVII.

THE IRISH SETTER.

It has often struck me as being extraordinary that so little is known of the origin of the Irish setter —that he is an old dog in his purity there is not the slightest doubt. He has been alluded to by writers early in the present century, but they have failed to tell us what kind of a dog he was, either in colour or form. I believe him to have been a red, or a red and white dog, a smart active animal, full of courage, rather headstrong, an untiring worker, with olfactory organs quite as good as any other dog used for a similar purpose.

And how strange it seems that the native Irish dogs are for the most part red or brown. This may be a favourite Milesian colour, or it may be the result of accident. One cannot say that the Irish red setter, the Irish terrier, and the water spaniel of Ireland, came at any recent date from one stock. Still, their colours, if not quite alike, are similar, and for modern tastes, the redder the terrier and the setter are, the better.

Failing to find anything of particular interest in the early days of the Irish setter, I turned to Mr. W. C. Bennett, of Dublin, a gentleman who has made the variety his hobby, and he most kindly promised to do what he could for me in the matter. The following particulars from his pen will no doubt be read with interest:

My inquiries relative to the above breed have tended to convince me that, so far at least as the Midland and Western Counties of Ireland, Dublin, and its vicinity, were concerned (which were best known to my three first named informants, whose experience and opinions are given below), the red setter was but seldom encountered, and that red and white Irish setters (differing in many essential qualities and in general appearance from the English variety) were well known and highly esteemed.

That this assertion will be met with an indignant denial from the owners and exhibitors of the red dogs at present gracing the bench and holding their own in Field Trials, I am quite prepared for, but how far back does their recollection carry them? The first gentleman I interviewed on the subject was Mr. Mahon, one of the old Ross Mahon stock, of Galway fame, now over eighty years of age, and son of the Rev. H. Mahon, of Castlegar, an ardent sportsman and owner of many setters, all of which were red and white, and who held the opinion often expressed to his son, that this was the true colour of the Irish setter. This gentleman's recollection carried him back to the last century (he having died in the year 1838.)

The present Mr. Mahon informs me that in his early days dogs wholly red were rare, though such, he admits, existed, and were considered more difficult to break than the red and white, which, he says, were smaller. A strain of them, called the "Ahascragh breed," kept in his family were highly prized, but which, from being

bred in and in by the gamekeeper, Jemmy Fury, degenerated into weeds. He especially mentions one, called Sylvie, which he obtained from Charles Mahon, of Mount Pleasant, co. Mayo; she was a big bitch, beautifully feathered, very enduring and staunch, and with her he hoped to resuscitate the Ahascragh strain. Owing, however, to the death of his father, he abandoned the attempt. Mr. Mahon purchased two dogs from Mr. Buchanan for Sir St. George Gore, about the year 1838, which were wholly red in colour, and this gentleman appears to have kept the whole coloured almost, if not entirely, in his kennels.

Mr. Baker, of Lismacue, co. Tipperary, was a firm adherent of the red and white variety, and Mr. Mahon considers his breed a particularly good one; they had black noses, and were fine upstanding dogs, selected with care, with good feathering and low carriage of stern.

My next informant was Mr. John Bennett, of Grange, King's County, who hunted the county for over 30 years, and whose recollection goes back to the early part of the present century. So far back as the year 1835 he owned a light red bitch called Cora, which he mated with a red dog, the property of the late Capt. Vaughan, of Golden Grove, King's County, one of the O'Connor breed, which, so far as he can recollect, were all red. Capt. Vaughan had two brace of the strain in his kennels, and all these were red with black noses, sterns carried low (a point then, as now, highly valued), large sized and muscular.

Mr. Bennett considers the O'Connor and Yelverton O'Keeffe's strain of red and white setters the best he ever shot over. The latter paid great attention to keeping them pure, and adhered to the parti-coloured in preference to the whole coloured variety, though, strange to say, the last of the race was a red dog in the possession of the late Charley O'Keeffe of Parsonstown, son of Yelverton O'Keeffe. This Mr. Bennett accounts for by Yelverton O'Keefe's admission that he had used a red in his strain, having bred from a handsome specimen in the possession of Long, a coachmaker in Mary-street, Dublin, which had a cross of the

O'Connor breed; but Mr. Bennett says the wholly red were scarce, and much more difficult to break than the red and white dogs.

It is to be observed that neither Mr. Mahon nor Mr. Bennett ever exhibited setters, but used them solely for work. I myself shot over a dog and bitch, Beau and Belle, the property of Mr. Darby, of Leap Castle, Roscrea, which he obtained from Judge O'Connor Morris, a descendant of Maurice Nugent O'Connor (before mentioned), and both these were dark red with black noses, but with, to my eyes, a strong suspicion of a Gordon or other cross, as their coats were too deep in colour, and were, moreover, inclined to be broken, not silky and fine as they should be.

I next consulted Mr. John G. King, of Ballylin, King's County, who may be fairly looked upon as the father of the breed in this country. He has been a constant attendant and exhibitor at dog shows, not alone of setters, but of pointers and foxhounds. He is still as keen as possible, notwithstanding that he paid for his first game licence in 1837, and his experience is golden, for not only does he remember clearly the dogs of the past, but he can recollect the names of winners at dog shows, in what he calls recent years, from the show in the Rotunda Gardens, Dublin, about 1863, down to the last field trials in Cookstown.

At the Rotunda show he pointed out that there were numbers of red and white setters exhibited. Although Mr. King keeps a note book in which he, from time to time, jotted down names of dogs and incidents connected with them, he seldom has to refresh his memory of either the owner, breeder, or dog, and he firmly adheres to the assertion that the entirely red coloured dog was not only in the minority, but difficult to obtain at all. He quotes an instance of a gamekeeper from Roscommon, from whom he was in the habit of purchasing dogs, bringing him a red dog, and urging him to purchase it because of its rarity. He gives the palm to the O'Connor strain as having been selected with the most care, and kept for years pure from extraneous crosses. In confirmation of his assertion that the red and white were, in

former years, the favoured breed, he refers to a picture at Sharavogue, the seat of the late Earl of Huntingdon, who married the only daughter of the late Colonel Westenra (the owner of the famous racehorse "Freeny") representing Lord Rossmore, the ancestor of the Westenra family, and an enthusiastic sportsman, shooting over three or four setters. Only one of these is whole coloured, and this dog is a pale golden red, with a white snip on the forehead, all the others are red and white.

Amongst noted breeders in the past Mr. King quotes Mr. La Touche, of Harristown, who had the O'Connor strain; Mr. Dunne, of Brittas; Mr. Samuel Handy, of Parsonstown; Miss Lidwell, Lord Howth, Lord Waterford, Mr. Trumble, of Malahide, Dublin, and Mr. Reeves, of Dublin. Mr. King—when only verging on manhood as a Trinity College student, was even then a sportsman, —and can recall Dycer's red dog "Don" (the reputed father of Captain Hutchinson's famous "Bob") and often sought "the Repository" for the purpose of a ramble with old "Don." Miss Lidwell (or Ledwich, as she was sometimes erroneously called), had then a reputation for keeping good dogs, and Mr. King on a visit to her cottage, near Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin, saw the then crack "Pluto," a red and white. The lady had shortly before been interviewed by the late Mr. Edward Laverack, who wished to take her dog to England to cross with his breed, but the lady was obdurate, even indignant, and refused to lend or sell her favourite.

Of later breeders Mr. King is equally familiar, and can recall the faults and perfections of champion Palmerston; Miss Warburton's Lilly; Mr. Giltrap's Garryowen; Mr. Nuttall's Maybe, and Loo VII.; Captain Milner's Frisco; and at last Ballsbridge show he was as interested in the awards as the most recent exhibitor. He disagrees with Mr. Bennett as to the colour of the O'Connor breed, as he maintains they were red and white. A few words in conclusion of his remarks. He confines his observations to those localities with which he personally was acquainted, and as these did not extend either to the bleak north, or the wilds of Kerry, he

cannot say that the red setter may not, in these favoured districts, have existed in considerable numbers.

Now it has often been mooted, and always met with a most decided opposition from the Irish Red Setter Club, that a class should be given for red and white dogs, and surely if they are more easily broken than the whole coloured dogs and more easily seen on mountain or moor, it would not be a step in the wrong direction to try and resuscitate so valuable a strain. There must be many specimens still existing when so comparatively recently as the Rotunda show, before referred to, several red and whites were exhibited on the benches. There is another point worth observing, and that is the red dogs of the past, and even those shown at the earlier shows were not nearly so deep in colour as many now before the public on the benches. The Irish Red Setter Club's own rules state that the correct colour is "a rich golden chesnut." How many of this colour do we now see winning at our leading dog shows.

My next informant (says Mr. Bennett) was Mr. Cecil Moore, the breeder of champion Palmerston, Kate (afterwards Mr. Perrin's), and numerous other celebrities. This gentleman is from county Tyrone, and informs me that in that locality the red dog was the favourite, and numbers of them were to be found in the possession of sportsmen about the town of Omagh, and as he has turned "the three score and ten years allotted to man," and is a good shot, and kept dogs of the right sort, his opinion is valuable.

That the red and white were in existence he freely admits, but that they were Irish setters at all he denies, as he holds to the opinion that they were imported from England, and were a distinct breed. Amongst breeders of the pure red sort he mentions Mr. Jason Hazzard, of Timaskea, county Fermanagh, who, so far back as the year 1812, kept nothing but whole coloured specimens. The Earl of Enniskillen, grandfather of the present Earl, about the same period had a different strain of the red colour, on which he set great value. Between these gentlemen

a friendly rivalry existed, and both evidently admired each other's breed, as they eventually bred their favourites together, a red bitch, the property of the commoner, visiting a dog of the Earl's.

Mention may also be made of Mr. Evans, of Dungannon (land agent to Lord Ranfurley), who had a kennel of red Irish setters, and kept no others. Mr. Moore relates a curious instance of a pure bred red bitch, which he used to one of the red and white variety, and which, when mated with whole coloured dogs, in every subsequent litter threw a pup or two of similar marking to the first cross.

Mr. Moore seldom exhibited his dogs in the early days of dog shows, preferring them for their working qualities alone, and the famous old champion Palmerston had a narrow escape of being lost to the admiring gaze of the public. Mr. Moore, finding him rather a delicate dog for field work (though most persevering and with an excellent nose) ordered his man to drown him, as he did not wish to give him to any one who would use him for shooting purposes, as he had then passed his prime. The late Mr. Hilliard met the poor old dog on the way to what was expected to be his watery grave, and begged him from Mr. Moore. The dog was given conditionally that Mr. Hilliard would keep him for show purposes alone. The result is known to most of my readers.

It would appear from Mr. Moore's remarks that a white patch on chest or white on the feet was little regarded, and he has frequently known a patch on the back of the neck appear in the best red setters, and that this is still the fact is well known to breeders. Now, may it not be reasonably asked, is not this some former cross with the red and white variety repeating itself? For, although in all self-coloured breeds, such as the black retriever, the black Field spaniel, the Irish terrier, a patch on the chest is but little thought of, while on the toes, and, worse still, on the neck or body the mark is regarded with much disfavour.

The Palmerston strain, as most breeders are aware, frequently had what the late Mr. Lort called "the Palmerston snip," a thin

thread of white running down the forehead, and in some of his descendants this amounted to a pretty broad "blaze" on the forehead.

It should be borne in mind that in early days men kept dogs of all breeds for their good working qualities alone, and I think it reasonable to suppose that if an enthusiastic sportsman had a particularly excellent red dog and his friend and neighbour an equally good red and white bitch, or *vice versâ*, they were pretty certain to breed them together. Be it also remembered that travelling in those days was not the easily accomplished matter it is now, nor were dogs advertised at stud or for sale to any great extent, if at all. Dog shows were wholly unknown, consequently the dogs of those days were only locally famous.

It is somewhat difficult to reconcile the apparent difference in opinions existing between the various gentlemen whose experiences are quoted by me as to whether the *original* breed was red and white or wholly red. Mr. Mahon, who may be taken to have a good knowledge of the west, and Mr. King, who knew the Midland counties, and as a college youth the vicinity of Dublin, held the opinion that the original breed was red and white, but both admit that the red dog was then existing, but not to any great extent.

Mr. Bennett, who knew the Midland counties, and Dublin, holds the opinion that the red and white predominated, but that the red was kept in comparative purity in certain kennels, but believes that there were few, if any, men in those days (save Mr. Maurice O'Connor, perhaps), who would not use a red and white if he were a well proved good one in the field. Do not these facts tally with Mr. Moore's assertion, that he himself did so on one occasion?

It is easy to suppose the red dog existed in greater numbers in the north, and the red and white in the midland and western counties, but that the red and white was imported from England in sufficient quantities in those days of slow sailing boats, and with no accommodation for dogs, and the stupendous difficulties to be

encountered on stage coaches, &c., to establish a breed of red and white English setters, I think, wholly untenable, therefore the natural conclusion appears to be that the red and white Irish setter was the favourite in certain counties crossed with the red Irish setter when the latter was a good performer, and that the red setter was held in highest esteem in other counties crossed with the red and white, when occasion demanded.

An interesting pamphlet (now I believe out of print), has been lent me by Mr. Giltrap, secretary of the Irish Red Setter Club, and which was published by Dr. Wm. Jarvis, of Claremont, New Hampshire, U.S.A., in the year 1879. It purports to contain the pedigree and performance of the two famous setter champions "Elcho" and "Rose"; the former dog was born in the year 1874, and after gaining a second prize in Dublin, found his way to America, where he had numerous successes on the bench, and was the sire of Captain Milner's Ailleen, Berkeley Ben, and Joe Junior, and a host of other winners. Rose, bred by Mr. Cecil Moore, was born the same year as Elcho, and was by champion Palmerston out of Flora, and, after winning two prizes in Ireland and one in England, went to Dr. Jarvis's kennels; and the following is an extract from the pamphlet, which is not, I think, without significance on the question of the purity of the breed.

"About 1796, the then Earl of Enniskillen, of Florence Court, county of Fermanagh, had a remarkably fine breed of Irish setters, and in 1814, he and Mr. Jason Hazzard, of Timaskea, same county, also had an equally fine strain which they crossed. Mr. Jackson Lloyd, of Tamnamore, obtained this breed from Mr. Hazzard; and in 1819, Mr. Robert Evans, of Gostmerron, Dingamore, county of Tyrone, obtained the breed from Mr. Lloyd, and crossed it with the then noted strain of Irish red setters possessed by Captain McDonald, husband of the Countess of Antrim. Mr. Evans was a then noted sportsman throughout the north of Ireland, and his Irish setters were famed for their beauty and field qualities. In 1846, Mr. Moore obtained the breed from Mr. Evans, and has since kept it pure."

There is sufficient evidence in Mr. Bennett's communication to prove that the original Irish setter was red and white, and that the fine red race were the rarer of the two. Even among the earlier days of dog shows few of the best dogs were wholly red, and one of the most shapely and successful of them, Dr. Stone's Dash, was red and white. But the rage was even then abroad for the whole-coloured dogs, and those who procured them would not look at any other, and attacked Dash wherever he won, and called him a mongrel.

As a fact the red and white dog is the more useful, and the wholly red dog's popularity is the result of the show bench. Those who have ever shot on the mountains and bogs of Ireland cannot fail to have noticed the difficulty there is at times in discerning the red dog, when on a wide range, with a brown heather background, he comes to a point. By no means is it unusual to lose your dog under such circumstances, and if he is not altogether lost, and his skeleton found still pointing when the shooter goes that way in twelve months time, it is through the good sense of the dog, who would never commit suicide under such conditions. A couple of years ago, at the Field meeting, held in county Tyrone, Mr. J. G. Hawkes lost one of his dogs under such circumstances whilst running a trial.

An hour or more later one of the keepers found the dog on a stiff point. Had it been red and white such a thing could not have happened. At the same meeting and at others the difficulty of distinguishing the red dogs was brought prominently forward when they were running against liver and white or lemon and white pointers or setters, for the latter could be observed with less than half the difficulty it took to discern the native animals.

Nor have I found that birds lie one bit the better to dark coloured dogs than they do to those of a lighter hue.

The Rev. Thomas Pearce ("Idstone"), writing of the Irish red setter twenty years ago, remarked that he would not be surprised were they to become popular. That they have done so there is no doubt.

For many years the Rev. J. C. Macdona's Plunket stood alone in his race as the one Irish setter that had ever proved his excellence at Field Trials. This dog, after winning second prize in the aged stake, to Mr. Statter's Bruce, at the National Meeting, Shrewsbury, in 1870, was purchased by Mr. Purcell-Llewellin, who won the prize for setters with him at Vaynol the same year, and other field trials and bench honours subsequently. Plunket, who was bred by the Hon. D. Plunket, had Captain Hutchinson's Bob for his grandsire; he was a

fairly good-looking dog, and perhaps all round no Irish setter that has yet appeared could beat him. But, of course, this is purely a matter of opinion, for it is very difficult indeed to judge of the work of two dogs without seeing them together, especially when there is an interval of about twenty years between him and the best of recent years—Aveline, Drogheda, and some others. In appearance either of the two named would easily have beaten Plunket in the show ring, whatever might have been the result in the field.

When the Irish Setter Club was established, in 1882, considerable impetus was given to the red setter, but even before that time he was beginning to make his mark as a good worker at field trials. He had long borne a reputation for being wild and headstrong, and another fault he had was a tendency to put his nose down and hunt the foot scent like a hound rather than seek for it in the wind. This was said to be on account of some remote, may be fabulous, cross, years and years ago with a blood-hound. However, that he was fond of hunting on the ground there is no doubt whatever, any more than there is of his wilfulness and difficulty in breaking. When properly and perfectly trained, the red setter has shown us that no other variety can beat him.

I should conscientiously say that, from what I have observed in his work of late years, and I have seen all the best dogs run, that the Irish setter is as dashing, as energetic, as stylish as the best English dog I ever saw. I believe he, as a general rule, will do a long and hard day's work better than any other breed of setter. His stamina is extraordinary. I shall never forget that big, strong dog "Wrestler" (Mr. W. H. Cooper, of Derbyshire), that ran at the Irish Trials in 1891. Each morning he followed, or rather preceded, the cars, during the long ten miles' drive to the moors, on his way racing over the fields and inclosures, and, indeed, doing an ordinary day's work before his trials commenced, and when he did run his first heat he was even then too wild. No Laverack or Gordon setter would have been allowed to do this, and it must have proved even too much for those untiring liver and white little dogs to which allusion has previously been made in the article on English setters.

Perhaps after Plunket most attention was attracted to Irish setters by the good work of a bitch, called Aveline, belonging to the Rev. R. O'Callaghan, which ran at the Kennel Club meeting in the spring of 1885. She was a handsome bitch, so much so, indeed, as to obtain the cognomen of "beautiful," and as the

" beautiful Aveline " she was often known. I recollect how the stake appeared at her mercy, when, unfortunately, a very little rabbit jumped up almost between her legs, and the high couraged bitch, unable to resist the temptation, committed a fault so grave that quite prevented her taking that precedence in the stake her pace, style, and nose, would have entitled her under more favourable circumstances. Later on she won all before her on the show bench, and was not long in attaining her degree as champion.

For many years Mr. O'Callaghan has given considerable attention to the production of the Irish setter in its purity. I have seen his dogs, when properly broken and handled at field trials, do excellent work, and the Kennel Club Stud Books tell how successful they have been in the show ring. There are enthusiasts of the variety who consider this strain usually too dark in colour, too deep in their bright redness, which is indeed a lovely hue. I have a peculiar fondness for this colour so long as it does not show any actual blackness, indicative of Gordon cross, the latter so marked in many of the earlier show dogs—Mr. Jones's Carlo to wit, who did a considerable amount of winning in his day.

Possibly, at some time or another, these red setters were so crossed, Mr. Laverack writes of a red dog he

saw at Cockermouth, in Cumberland, which he would much liked to have used to his setters. He found on inquiry that this dog always produced one or more black puppies, and, although he was fast and had a good nose, he was so headstrong that he could not be broken. I fancy some of our modern skilled trainers would soon have brought him to his senses.

Richardson, who said little of the Irish setter, says he is perhaps the purest of all setters, and that his colour is "a yellowish red." Writing fifty years since, he remarks, such dogs "are the genuine unmixed descendants of the original land spaniel, and, so highly valued are they, that a hundred pounds is by no means an unusual price for a single dog." This was a *very* unusual price for such a dog, fifty years or so ago when Richardson wrote, but another authority on the breed, who flourished rather before this period, says that so valued were some strains of the Irish setter that on one occasion an estate was given for a brace of dogs. We are afraid that there are at the present time in the unfortunate Emerald Isle, certain estates that would be dear at the price of one of our best dogs.

It may be right to allude to Youatt's opinion as to the colour of Irish setters when he wrote about 1845. He says they are "either very red, or red and

white, or lemon coloured, or white patched with deep chesnut; and it was necessary for them to have a black nose and a black roof to their mouth." The same writer tells us that an Irish setter will obtain a higher price than an English or Scotch one, "fifty guineas being no unusual sum for a brace, and even two hundred guineas have been given." It is just as well to make these quotations here, as they will remind a modern and a future generation that the Irish setter had a reputation of its own before it came to be repopularised by working at Field Trials, and its appearance in the show ring.

How the variety has been re-popularised during the past few years, may be judged from the fact that at the first Birmingham show, held in 1860, there were but four entries in the bitch class, and these so little deserving that no prize was awarded. At the same exhibition, in 1891, there were something like eighteen red setter bitches in competition, and, of course, the classes for them are much better filled at the exhibitions held in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and other large towns in their native country. When the Kennel Club Stud Book was published, in 1874, the Irish were the only variety of setter grouped dogs and bitches together. Matters have changed since that time, and the red dogs now get their due.

One of the handsomest Irish setters following immediately after Dr. Stone's Dash was Mr. Hilliard's Count, a most typical specimen, lovely in colour, which was not too dark, but just dark enough. Then there was Mr. Giltrap's Garryowen, who, in his day, had been considered almost invincible. Mr. Cecil Moore's Old Kate, who did a considerable amount of winning between 1878 and 1882, when she was the property of Mr. Abbot and others, was certainly one of the best bitches I ever saw, and Mr. Hilliard's Palmerston, an immense dog, 64lb. in weight, and with an abnormally long and narrow head, monopolised the leading prizes at most of the best shows about this date.

Although such men as Mr. Hilliard, of Dublin; Mr. Waterhouse, Killiney; Mr. Giltrap, Dublin; Captain Milner, Booterstown, Dublin; Mr. McGoff, Tralee; Mr. L. F. Perrin, Kingstown; Mr. J. G. Hawkes, Kenmare; Mrs. Grattan Bellew, Enniskerry; Mr. Æ. Falkiner Nuttall, of co. Sligo; and other Irish families have latterly done much to give the variety its present popularity, more has been done in a similar manner by breeders this side the water, for the Rev. R. O'Callaghan, R.N., Wickham Market; Mr. C. C. Ellis, Suffolk; Mr. H. M. Wilson, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire; Mr. W. H. Cooper, Ashbourne; Mr. A. Taylor, B.A., Beaminster,

Dorset; Major Jameson, Ashbourne; Mr. A. E. Taylor, Cheadle (there are others likewise) have proved thorough enthusiasts in keeping up the strain.

Captain Milner has been very successful with his dogs, both on the bench and in the field; his Frisco, who died so recently as November, 1892, was certainly one of the crack dogs of the day, as his red puppy Airnie was one of the best youngsters of the Trial season during 1892. She won first honours at the Kennel Club, at the National trials, and at the Irish trials, and could not be deemed lucky in so doing. Airnie was one of the most careful and steady Irish setters I ever saw, and although she could go fast enough when so inclined, in a great measure lacked that dash and fire usually found in her strain. Her kennel companion, Spalpeen, has likewise performed well and steadily in public trials, and is also an exceedingly steady dog. It may be mentioned here as somewhat extraordinary that at the Kennel Club trials, when Airnie won, the whole of the winning setters in the puppy stakes were Irish setters.

Mr. O'Callaghan's Aveline we have alluded to, and his bitch Coleraine, in 1891, created quite a sensation by the brilliant manner in which she ran through the puppy stakes at both the National and Kennel

Club trials, and was placed third in the open competition at the latter meeting. She had greater style and dash than either of the dogs that ran so well for Mr. Milner, and I fancy could have beaten both of them. She went to America.

Mr. McGoff's Mac's Little Nell, born in 1884, and purchased by Mr. Ellis, was one of the most wonderful little setters I ever saw, though she could barely be 40lb. in weight. She went as fast as the big ones, had an excellent nose, and dropped on scent instantaneously; in her day no one would have been surprised to have seen her beat anything that she was ever put down against. Her field trial successes, when she died in the winter of 1892, had been greater than those of any other Irish setter.

Mr. Perrin's dogs, although fair performers at the trials, excelled more on the show bench, his Hector, Kate, and Wee Kate being cracks in their line. Similar remarks apply to the Killineys of Mr. Waterhouse, and to the several dogs Mr. Giltrap, the popular secretary of the Irish Setter, has from time to time owned, and still owns. At Glengariff, Kenmare, Mr. J. G. Hawkes spends his leisure in training his dogs, several of which have run successfully at the Irish trials. His Blue Rock, first prize Birmingham in 1890, and such animals as

his Signal, Muskerry, Miss Signal, are quite as good dogs as any man might be proud of owning. Muskerry, the sire of most of Mr. Hawkes' dogs and other winners, I have not seen, but am told he is a valuable and handsome animal, and has shown extraordinary stamina, though on several occasions he has been terribly hard run. Mrs. Bellew has a large and valued kennel at Tenchurch, Enniskerry, and her Susi, who won in the bitch class, at Curzon Hall, in 1890, is a particularly good specimen. Mr. W. W. Despard, Rathmoyle, Queen's County, has at times shown some excellent dogs, and an omission would be caused were no mention made of the many Irish setters that Mr. W. H. Lipscombe has so often brought from Dublin to compete at our English trials, though they may have not met with that amount of success such enterprise deserved. Mr. Falkiner Nuttall, of Cullinamore, co. Sligo, has for years had many good dogs, of which perhaps Loo VII. was his best.

Mr. O'Callaghan's success with the "beautiful Aveline" has already been noted, and not inferior to her was his Coleraine, a bitch previously alluded to. On the bench, too, this kennel is often at the big shows seen pitted against that of Mr. Ellis for supremacy, and victory is sometimes one way, and sometimes another. But such dogs as Fingal,

Shandon III., Finglass, and Geraldine, are good enough whether beaten or not; and Mr. Ellis's Drogheda, and his Dartrey, Rossmore, Tarbat, &c., formed, perhaps, as fine a team of red setters as ever stood a grouse. The first named was an unlucky dog in the trials, making some serious mistake or other, either through his own fault or his handler's, just as he appeared to be winning the chief prize. By show goers Mr. H. M. Wilson's Nellie will long be remembered for her successes on the bench, a bitch whose beauty we have brought to our recollection by an excellent portrait of her by the great animal painter Basil Bradley.

Mr. W. H. Cooper, at Ashbourne, in Derbyshire, has for some time had, perhaps, a larger kennel of Irish setters than anyone else, and their excellences have been known both on the bench and in the field. The names of his Wrestler, Finnigan's Wake, Sure Death, Vicar, and Woodbine, will, we fancy, be found in future pedigrees where a combination of the "best blue blood" is desired; for such will ensure that its possessors can gallop and stay with any dog pitted against them during the most arduous field trial work imaginable. At the Irish trials at Omagh, in 1889, there were a number of extraordinary dogs running, amongst them Henmore Sure Death, and Woodbine (bred by Mr. Hawkes), fast and

brilliant in the extreme. The former made a unique performance by winning both the puppy stake and the all-aged stake, the latter including all varieties of setters and pointers, and she was second, too, in the open puppy stake, beaten by Mr. Lonsdale's Ightfield Rosa. She also, if I mistake not, was third with Woodbine in the braces. Such a performance as this over a rough country, at once stamps the excellence of the strain from which she comes. Other good dogs of Mr. Cooper's were winning at the Irish trials in the autumn of 1892. Here his kennel performed unusually well, Clonsilla, a smart bitch, especially distinguishing herself.

Mr. Taylor's (Dorset) dogs, though successful on the bench, have not yet been tried in public on the mountains, nor have those of his namesake Mr. A. E. Taylor, of Cheadle; neither have I seen Major Jameson's great bench dog Ponto, or his kennel companion Drenagh anywhere but in the show ring, where they appear to be pretty nearly as good as they can be.

In what I have written an endeavour has been made to do justice to a handsome and valuable variety of the dog, which, from some cause or other, did not receive its due during a certain era, say from about 1840 to 1880. The development of field trials, the spirited and concerted action of several of

his admirers, and the formation of the Red Setter Club have, however, wrought a change, and naturally an improvement in the dog both in work and appearance.

At the present time there are more good show specimens extant than at any previous period in their history, and in work the Irish setter is steadier and better than he was once upon a time. This, no doubt, arises from the greater pains taken in his breaking; moreover, most of the best modern dogs are produced from animals whose ancestors for two or three generations have been highly trained. This continued for a few years longer, and, may be, the red setter will be the shooting dog of the future. He is fortunate in having so many enthusiasts to work for his good, and, so long as they breed for a combination of working capabilities and good looks, abstaining at the same time from introducing strains other than so far pure and tried ones, we may look for a continued improvement in this favoured dog.

I have said that, for work on the moors and mountains, a red and white dog is better than the deep, bright red, which is difficult to discern amid the brown heather on the hillside. But, if the breeders like the whole colour, let them stick to it by all means, and allow their failing sight to be assisted

by tying a white handkerchief around the neck of their dog, for something of the kind is certainly required. And the shooting man who has a wide expanse of moor upon which birds are scarce and require a great deal of finding, and the walking is arduous, can have no better dog for the purpose than a properly trained and staunch red setter. Such a one will work hard all day and not give up in disgust about noon because he has failed to locate more than an odd bird or so. Shortly, the red setter appears to me to be the most persevering of all sporting dogs used with the gun.

His points and description, as issued by the Irish Setter Club, are as follows :—

"*Head.*—Should be long and lean. The skull oval (from ear to ear), having plenty of brain room, and with well-defined occipital protuberance. Brows raised, showing stop. The muzzle moderately deep, and fairly square at end. From the stop to the point of the nose should be long, the nostrils wide, and the jaws of nearly equal length, flews not to be pendulous. The colour of the nose dark mahogany or dark walnut, and that of the eyes (which ought not to be too large) rich hazel or brown. The ears to be of moderate size, fine in texture, set on low, well back, and hanging in a neat fold close to the head.

"*Neck.*—Should be moderately long, very muscular, but not too thick, slightly arched, free from all tendency to throatiness.

"*Body.*—Should be long—shoulders fine at the points, deep, and sloping well back. The chest as deep as possible, rather narrow in front. The ribs well sprung, leaving plenty of lung room. Loins muscular, and slightly arched. The hindquarters wide and powerful.

"*Legs and Feet.*—The hind legs from hip to hock should be long and muscular; from hock to heel, short and strong. The stifle and hock joints well bent, and not inclined either in or out. The forelegs should be straight and sinewy, having plenty of bone, with elbows free, well let down, and, like the hocks, not inclined either out or in. The feet small, very firm, toes strong, close together, and arched.

"*Tail.*—Should be of moderate length, set on rather low, strong at root, and tapering to a fine point; to be carried in a scimitar-like curve on a level with or below the back.

"*Coat.*—On the head, front of legs, and tips of ears, should be short and fine, but on all other parts of the body and legs it ought to be of moderate length, flat, and as free as possible from curl or wave.

"*Feathering.*—The feather on the upper portion of

the ears should be long and silky; on the back of fore and hind legs long and fine; a fair amount of hair on the belly, forming a nice fringe, which may extend on chest and throat. Feet to be well feathered between the toes. Tail to have a nice fringe of moderately long hair, decreasing in length as it approaches the point. All feathering is to be as straight and as flat as possible.

"*Colour and Markings.*—The colour should be a rich golden chesnut, with no trace whatever of black; white on chest, throat, or toes, or a small star on the forehead, or a narrow streak or blaze on the nose or face not to disqualify."

	Value.		Value.
Head	10	Tail	4
Eyes and ears	10	Coat and feather	10
Neck	4	Colour	8
Body	20	Size, style, and general appearance	14
Hindlegs and feet	10		
Forelegs and feet	10		
	64		36

Grand Total 100.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE RETRIEVER.

OUR retriever was produced when the British sportsman found out that it was not good for his pointer or setter to fetch his game, and that his spaniel would not do this so well and quickly as a bigger dog; so the retriever became a necessity. As a sporting dog, he is purely of modern growth. In America it is still the fashion for the pointer and setter to do the double duty of finding and standing his game and bringing it to his owner who has shot it. A dog that does this is no doubt useful, answers the purpose of two dogs, and so keeps down the kennel; but the luxuriousness with which we are surrounded will not take the latter into consideration, and a man's kennel is incomplete without it includes retrievers of one or other of the few varieties. Again, in walking up the birds—which is almost the common procedure nowadays in the south of England and other good partridge countries—retrievers are required, and could not be done without, and so

they are in grouse driving, duck shooting, and for bringing a wounded hare or a winged pheasant out of the covert. I incline to the opinion that a well-broken, soft-mouthed retriever is the best all-round dog a man can have—one whose means are limited, who is fond of sport, and has not accommodation for more than one dog. Let such an animal live in the house and be constituted a constant companion, and there is no knowing how sensible a creature he will prove when his services are required in the field.

The retriever is a creation within the past fifty years, and he was no doubt, in the first instance, produced from crossing the old English or Irish water spaniel with the setter, the collie, and the smaller Newfoundland, usually known as the St. John or Labrador Newfoundland. Colonel Hutchinson, in his admirable work on dog breaking, gives us pictures of various crosses, and in general appearance these illustrations are of dogs bearing very much the characteristics of the modern retriever. Colonel Hutchinson published his book in 1847. Still, there were retrieving dogs long before Colonel Hutchinson's time. Dr. Caius wrote of dogs that brought back the "boults and arrows" that had missed the mark, and also such waterfowl as had been stung to death by some "venomous worm."

Conrad Gesner, in the early part of the sixteenth century, wrote of dogs trained to bring back birds to their masters; but such animals as these were the spaniels commonly used at that time.

It must be taken for granted that our modern retriever, be he either curly-coated, straight or wavy-coated, black, brown, or pale liver in colour, at some time was produced from one or other of the crosses I have named. The "nick" answered well, and what is now an actual and distinct variety resulted therefrom—one that with careful crossing produces a type quite as well defined as is to be found in the mastiff, bloodhound, and bulldog, which may be taken as our oldest British varieties of the canine race. With the improved farming, close cropping, increasing wildness of game arising from a variety of causes, and a disinclination in the modern shooting man to fill his bag over pointers and setters, the retriever is in many quarters considered to be the dog of the future. Whether this will prove to be the case or not, time will tell.

Field trials for retrievers were held at Vaynol Park, the seat of Mr. Assheton Smith, in the autumn of 1871-2, but on neither occasion do they appear to have been particularly successful. The usual competitions for pointers and setters took place at

the same time, the retrievers doing their work in conjunction with the other dogs. Birds were scarce, and "Stonehenge," in his *Field* report, said the only dog that did really good work was Mr. Parr's Cato, who took the chief prize on the second occasion. Two stakes, one for aged dogs, the other for puppies, were arranged at each meeting, and amongst those who made entries were Lord Downe, Mr. Purcell Llewellin, Mr. Lloyd Price, and others.

Whatever report may be as a rule in a matter of truthfulness, on this occasion it could not be far wrong when retriever trials by its rumour were pronounced a failure; for, although Mr. Price subsequently offered to find ground at Rhiwlas for a continuation of them, the kindly offer was not accepted, nor has anything of the kind been promoted since, though over twenty years have gone by since "Retriever Trials" were run. As a fact, the best work of such dogs would not be seen under surroundings so public, for the real excellence in a retriever lies in its intelligence in finding dead or wounded game under circumstances so exceptional as to preclude any possibility of opportunity being afforded them so to do, as occasion required.

ARTHUR WARDLE

THE CURLY-COATED BLACK RETRIEVER.

The admirers of this variety cannot have failed to notice, as others have done, its gradual decadence as a sporting dog, and that its position is slowly but surely being usurped by the flat or wavy-coated retriever. This, I think, must be taken as another instance of the survival of the fittest. Those who own the leading strains of "curlies," will, however, not acknowledge this, as they believe their own the best dogs in the world for their purpose—harder in constitution, more shapely, and better able to do rough work than their cousins.

Still, there is no getting away from the fact that the curly-coated retriever does not bear a good reputation. He is inclined to be hard-mouthed, *i.e.*, he may bite and injure the game he ought to retrieve tenderly and without ruffling a feather. His temper, too, is decidedly unreliable, especially with strangers, although, no doubt, there are exceptions here as in everything else. Still, we must look to the curly-coated retrievers as the hardiest of their race, and perhaps the best animal for wild fowl shooting of the day. Were I, however, to be asked to express an opinion as to which of one breed of the British dog was most unreliable in

temper, I should without hesitation say the curly-coated retriever. He is so as he reclines on his bench in the show building; he is so with his companions in his kennels at home; and he remains so when doing duty with the guns at the "big shoot" in the late autumn, when the leaves are off the trees and the undergrowth of bramble and fern have lost their luxuriance.

He is a faithful and useful dog to follow the keeper who makes a companion of him, for in addition to being very steady and easy to command, he possesses a good nose if the scent be not too stale, and is well able to give variety to his retrieving instincts by killing any vermin that the traps may have caught. One big curly dog a keeper owned up in the north was an adept at finding stoats in an old stone fence. With his assistance, the ferrets and the guns, we killed seven of these mischievous little creatures one afternoon, and there were two or three remaining which the dog's owner said they would get the next day. St. John, in his "Highland Sports," tells how a retriever of his found and brought out an otter.

Although there are, in various parts of the country, some few kennels that contain the curly-coated retrievers for working purposes, he is as often used for a companion and as a show dog. For a companion,

as I have already hinted, he is not the most desirable, but as a show dog he excels. His deep black coat, hard, close crisp curls right on to the top of the brow, but no further should they go; his symmetry, clean ears nicely shaped tail, and dark piercing eyes, that should have a mild expression, and so convey the impression of great sense and sagacity in their owner, make him particularly attractive on the show bench. Still, to be successful there, he requires a constant attention, and the cases are exceptional where a dog can be brought straight from work and prove successful in the ring.

The earliest classes at shows for the curly-coated retrievers were at Birmingham in 1860, but the competition was by no means keen. The first prize was awarded to a big coarse dog, shown by Mr. W. Brailsford; second honours went to a brown bitch belonging to Lord Alfred Paget, which, so far as looks went, was not worth her entrance fee. Up to 1864 all the varieties were shown together at Curzon Hall, but, following the example of the Cremorne management, the National exhibition increased the classification, and the two varieties competed separately, as they have done since, excepting, perhaps, where a special cup was concerned, offered for the best retriever in the show, and often enough a curly dog has won this great honour.

Amongst the best of the race in the early days of the show was Mr. J. D. Gorse's Jet, a dog that "Idstone" is said to have coveted, as that great authority considered him to be the most perfect dog he ever saw; and this strain that Mr. Gorse then had at Radcliffe-on-Trent were, when trained, quite as good in the field as on the bench. Mr. Riley, of Lancashire, who just preceded Mr. Gorse as a successful exhibitor, had two excellent ones in Carlo and Carlo II., and, following them, Dr. Morris, of Rochdale, introduced his dogs True and XL., which, good as they were, never had quite the sagacious, kindly expression Mr. Gorse's two Jets appeared to possess. Still these Lancashire dogs were, for a time, quite invincible on the bench, and, so closely curled were they that when a slight fringe did appear over the brow it seemed quite excusable, because it might just have been crowded out from some other portion of the dog.

Mr. J. H. Salter had some good dogs of the variety about this time; Mr. T. Swinburne's Chicory was a notoriety on the show bench, where she lasted far better and longer than is the case with the majority of exhibition dogs, and at Stowmarket Mr. S. Matthews always kept in his kennels two or three animals fit to show and win anywhere.

Now, in 1892, the best curly-coated black retrievers

are owned by Viscount Melville, at Melville Castle, Mid Lothian; his Robin Hood is about equal to anything that one has seen of late, and that he can transfer his excellence to his sons was proved by a puppy by him being sold at Aldridge's in June for twenty-three guineas, the whole of the litter realising fifty-six guineas, by no means bad prices as things go for unbroken dogs. Mr. S. Darby, at Tiverton, appears to be giving more attention than anyone else to the variety, and, as I write, so far as the show bench is concerned, his kennel is by far the best, and contains at least half a dozen specimens about as perfect as they can be found. Mr. Henry Skipworth, of Barkwith, near Lincoln, has an equally good lot, and of a strain that has been in his possession many years. Mr. W. Walker, Preston, also owns several excellent specimens, and it was one of his fine young dogs to which Mr. Lloyd Price, when judging at Birmingham in 1892, awarded a second prize, he withholding all others in about as good a class of the variety as had been benched. Though each of the nine entries brought into the ring, had at one time or another taken show honours, they were not to the liking of the judge, who created quite a sensation by acting as stated. At any rate, he proved to have the courage of his convictions, which is not always the case with modern judges.

In 1890 a club was formed with the laudable intention of, if possible, re-popularising the curly-coated black retriever. The following was the description of the variety it adopted:

"*Head.*—Long and narrow for the length.

"*Ears.*—Rather small, set on low, lying close to the head, and covered with short curls.

"*Jaws.*—Long and strong, free from lippiness, with good sound teeth.

"*Nose.*—Wide open nostrils, moist and black.

"*Eyes.*—Dark, cannot be too dark, rather large, showing great intelligence, and splendid temper; a full pug eye an objection.

"*Coat.*—Should be one mass of short, crisp curls from the occiput to the point of tail, a saddle back or patch of uncurled hair behind shoulders, and white patch on chest should be penalised, but few white hairs allowed in an otherwise good dog. Colour, black or liver.

"*Neck.*—Long, graceful, but muscular, and well placed, and free from throatiness, such as a blood-hound.

"*Shoulders.*—Very deep, muscular, and obliquely placed.

"*Chest.*—Not too wide, but decidedly deep.

"*Body.*—Rather short, muscular, and well ribbed up.

"*Legs.*—Forelegs straight, with plenty of bone, not too long, and set well under body.

"*Feet.*—Round and compact, with toes well arched.

"*Loin.*—Powerful, deep, and firm to the grasp.

"*Tail.*—Should be carried pretty straight, and covered with short curls, tapering towards tip.

"*General Appearance.*—A strong, smart dog, moderately low on leg, active, lively, beaming with intelligence and expression.

The weight is not given in the club standard; dogs should be from 55lb. to 68lb., bitches about five pounds less.

	Value.		Value.
Head	10	Ears	5
Jaws	5	Nose	5
Eyes	5	Coat	15
Neck	5	Shoulders	5
Chest	5	Body	5
Legs	5	Feet	5
Loins	10	Tail	5
		General appearance	10
	45		55

Grand total, 100.

THE FLAT OR WAVY COATED BLACK RETRIEVER.

This handsome and kindly dog, so say its admirers, is to be the dog of the future. Whether this will prove the case or not only that future can decide, but, taking a line from the progress it has made in public esteem during the past dozen years or so, it is a prognostication likely enough to prove correct. Here we have a creature made for use; handsome, kindly in disposition, obedient, easy to rear, breeding true to type, and well answering the purpose for which it is intended, so there can be little fear of retrogression on its part. Though the curly-coated dog had obtained the advantage at the start, he is coming in but a very bad second. The causes of this have already been alluded to.

The flat or wavy coated retriever is now pretty well distributed throughout the British Isles, and few shooting parties leave home unaccompanied by a well trained specimen or two, which are, however, actually more useful in turnips and on comparatively open ground, than they are in thick covert and tangled brushwood. Their coats are fine, and certainly not made for the purpose of resisting thorns and briers, and, so far as the experience of

the writer goes, their one fault lies in their indisposition to face thick covert, and in whins and gorse I have seen them actually useless. Still there are some strains that I believe will do as well in the roughest covert as the curly dog. A friend of mine was taking exception to the lack of perseverance a flat-coated retriever displayed in making out the line of a winged pheasant that had run about some bramble bushes; at the same time praising his own dog, with a curly coat on him as shaggy as that of a Herdwick sheep. There requires to be a happy mean between the two, for, where one would not face the brambles at all, the other would, and have to be cut out of them, the strong prickles holding him as fast as if he were in a net. After every day's shooting it would take two or three hours to free my friend's dog from the "burrs" that had become entangled in his coat. A hard, wavy coated retriever, clad in a jacket not unlike those possessed by the German griffons, would be useful in a rough country.

The first introduction of the flat-coated retriever to the show bench was at Cremorne in 1873, but in the first volume of the Kennel Club Stud Book, printed in 1874, the two varieties are classed together. He was a much bigger and coarser dog than he is now. Some of the early specimens were

pure and simple Newfoundlands, and it has taken a few years' careful work to bring the wavy retriever to what it is at the present time. Not too big but just big enough. Our grandfathers said, "Oh! we want a big retriever, a strong 'un; one that can jump a gate with an 8lb. hare in its mouth, and gallop with one at full speed." This is not so now. A comparatively small dog is well able to carry a hare, and shooting is so precise that puss does not run as far as she did, when properly hit. Dogs are not made to assist bad shooters to fill a bag, and a man who cannot, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, stop a hare before she has run seventy yards, ought not to fire at another. And you do not require to have a special dog for the one chance in a hundred.

Such animals as Dr. Bond Moore used to show were of enormous size and coarse to boot, and I am sure would not be looked at in the show ring to-day. If any of the blood of this strain remains it must be in very small quantities. One or two of his dogs had ugly light eyes, which, objectionable as it may be in other dark-coloured dogs, is more than trebly so in a retriever. The two Wyndhams that came earlier were better dogs, especially Mr. Meyrick's, that was winning at the leading shows from 1864 to 1870. Mr. Brailsford brought out the

other Wyndham, this in 1860, a dog which was evidently almost pure Labrador, and, like its namesake, has no pedigree in the Stud Book. Still, both dogs were successful on the show bench, so were much used, and their blood is to be found in most of the strains at the present day. Another excellent dog of the early period was Major Allison's Victor, another dog without pedigree, that was purchased at Edinburgh. It is interesting to note how true to type these pedigreeless dogs have proved, and do so even at the present time. For instance, Mr. L. A. Shuter, of near Farningham, in Kent, not long ago purchased a bitch in the streets at Bristol, and could not obtain the slightest trace as to what her sire and dam were. Still, so good was she that he formed an alliance between her and his dog Darenth. The result was puppies so good that they won prizes in keen competition directly they came to be shown. Such cases are, however, exceptional, and must not be considered when mentioned here as an indication that I do not value pedigree.

To Mr. S. E. Shirley, the president of the Kennel Club, the admirers of the wavy-coated retrievers are indebted for what he has done for the popularisation of the breed, and most of all the best dogs of the present day are of his strain. A valued lot of retrievers had been kept at Ettington Park long

before the dogs of the show bench, and Mr. Shirley remembers black retrievers in the kennels there forty years ago. These dogs were much wavier in the coat than is the present fashion. In addition to those at Ettington Park, in the time of the father of the present popular owner, the neighbouring gentry round about Stratford-on-Avon had strains of their own, and these the late Mr. Shirley made use of in founding his kennel. One dog in these early days was especially valued, for he excelled all others in work as well as in looks. This was Nep, who belonged to Wey, then head keeper to Captain Peach, of Idlecote. The dog was, however, too valuable to stay long with his breeder, and Wey sold him for £20, a very high price then, to the late Mr. West, of Alscot Park. In due course Nep was the sire of a dog called Moses, who will no doubt be recollected by retriever breeders as the father of Mr. J. D. Gorse's well known Sailor.

The blood of this dog still remains in the best dogs in Mr. Shirley's kennels, and it is some twenty-five years since he began to give special attention to improving the retriever for show purposes. This he did by purchasing and using the best dogs obtainable, and by careful selection got them to the uniformity of type and general excellence as they are seen to-day on the benches at Birmingham and

elsewhere. No setter cross has ever been used, but one of the older stock, Paris, was a Labrador, still he was a great winner on the bench in his day. Mr. G. T. Bartram's good old dog, Zelstone, used with great success of late years as a sire, has likewise an undoubted strain of Labrador in him.

I have entered into the particulars of this kennel pretty fully for two reasons—because it is the leading one at present, and that from which almost all others have sprung, and, secondly, because it has been previously stated that Mr. Shirley's retrievers were purely and simply crosses from the Labrador. That they have but a slight tinge of that breed in them, and are mainly indebted for their excellence to careful selection from old local strains, is very evident from what I have written.

Lieut.-Colonel Cornewall Legh, near Knutsford, also owns a considerable kennel of a strain that have proved themselves equally acceptable as workers as on the show bench. Mr. H. Liddell, Otterburn Hall, Northumberland; Mr. John Morrison, Standeford, near Wolverhampton; Mr. C. A. Phillips, Eccles, Lancashire; Mr. G. T. Bartram, of Braintree, whose Zelstone is alluded to above; the Rev. W. Serjeantson; Mr. Harding Cox, and Mr. A. Money-Wigram, have all, at one time or another possessed, or still possess, capital specimens of the

race, some of them owning dogs and bitches in sufficient numbers to perpetuate the breed should any virulent disease attack and destroy all that others own.

At the present time there is a tendency to produce the wavy-coated retrievers with an inclination to the type and shape of head possessed by the setters. This is, no doubt, due to the fallacy carried out in breeding for straight coats, which are all very well in their way, attractive enough in the show ring, but thoroughly bad from a workman's point of view. During my somewhat lengthened connection with dog shows I have noticed that, as a rule, the straightest and flattest coated dogs have the greatest tendency to the longer setter-like heads. If breeding for this coat in preference to that of type of head and character is continued, mischief will be done which may not be so easy to remedy as the variety was to be produced in the first instance. I would especially recommend the judges in dealing with this retriever, to give more credit for the correct type of head than for an actually and perfectly flat coat, not forgetting that the dog was originally "wavy-coated" quite as much as his jacket was straight.

About judging wavy-coated retrievers. At the last Birmingham show Mr. Lloyd Price had an unusually

fine class of dogs before him, which included one called Rightaway, which his owner, Mr. Shirley, considered to be one of the best dogs he ever saw. The judge thought otherwise, and gave the chief award to another from the same kennel. The winner was a much more active-looking dog than Rightaway, equally good in coat, head, and expression, and in legs and feet; but he stood a little higher on the legs, and was not so heavy in bone as the favourite of the Kennel Club's President, who should know a good dog if any man does. Still, on this occasion we endorse the judge's decision in giving first prize to the more active and workmanlike animal, and it is to be hoped that judges will be consistent and award the leading honours to those dogs that from appearance seem most likely to be useful in the field. As I have already stated, coats can be too fine and straight.

The descriptions and points of the wavy coated black retriever, founded on "Stonehenge's" scale, are as follows:

The *nose and jaws* are to be considered from two points of view—first, as to the powers of scent; and secondly, as to the capacity for carrying a hare or pheasant without risk of damage. For both purposes the jaws should be long, and for the development of scenting powers the nose should be

wide, the nostrils open, and its end moist and cool; teeth level, and neither overshot nor undershot.

The *skull, ears, and eyes.*—Skull bone wide and flat at the top, with slight furrow down the middle. Brow by no means pronounced, but the skull is not absolutely in a straight line with the nose. The ears must be small, lie close to the head, and set on low, but not hanging down in hound fashion. With regard to the hair on them, it must be short. The eyes should be of medium size, dark in colour, bright, intelligent-looking, and mild in expression, indicating a good temper.

Neck, loins, and back.—Whatever be the breed of dog, his neck should be long enough to allow him to stoop in seeking for the trail. A chumpy neck is especially bad; for, while a little dog may get along on a foot scent with a short neck, a comparatively large and unwieldy dog tries himself terribly by the necessity for crouching in his fast pace. Loins and back wide, deep, and strong.

The *quarters and stifles* must be muscular, and so formed to enable the retriever to do his work fast enough to please the modern sportsman, with ease to himself; the stifles should be nicely turned.

The *shoulders* should be long and sloping;

otherwise, even with a proper length of neck, the dog cannot stoop to a foot scent without fatigue.

The *chest* should be broad as well as deep, with well-developed and well sprung ribs.

Legs, *knees*, and *hocks*.—When tolerably fast work is to be done by a heavy dog, it is important that these parts should be strong and free from disease in their joints. Hence the legs must not only be long and muscular, but they must be clean and free from lumber. The knees should be broad, and the hocks well developed, and clean.

The *feet* are rather larger proportionately than in the setter, but they should be compact, and the toes well arched. Soles thick and strong.

The *tail* should be bushy in proportion to the dog, but not feathered. It should be carried gaily, but not curled over the back.

The *coat* is short, but not so short as in the pointer or hound ; it should be close and thick and as straight as possible; a thin open coat, underneath which the skin is easily found, is bad, however straight it may be.

The *colour* should be a rich black, free from rustiness and from white.

Symmetry and temperament.—The symmetry and elegance of this dog are considerable, and should

be valued highly. The evidences of good temper must be regarded with great care, since his utility mainly depends on his disposition. A sour-headed brute, with a vicious look about the eyes, should be disqualified.

Weight from 50lb. to 68lb. for dogs; bitches rather smaller.

	Value.		Value.
Nose and jaws	5	Feet	10
Skull, ears, and eyes	10	Tail	5
Neck, loins, and back ...	10	Coat	10
Quarters and stifles	5	Symmetry and temperament	20
Shoulders and chest	13		
Legs, knees, and hocks...	12		
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

OTHER RETRIEVERS.

There are other retrievers than the two varieties already mentioned. Some years ago a so-called "Russian Retriever" very often appeared in the variety classes at our shows—a huge, unwieldy creature, certainly more like being successful in carrying off a sheep rather than in retrieving a snipe. He would weigh pretty well on to a hundred pounds, was covered with long ringlets, and appeared more nearly allied to the French poodle

than to anything else, and I believe in fact that he was a poodle. Usually he was black in colour, sometimes brown. It was said this "Russian" was introduced here for the purpose of "crossing," to give size and strength. When already our retrievers were bigger and coarser than we required them, there is no wonder his services were refused.

The common brown retriever that we see running about the streets, neither curled nor wavy, nor smooth, is a sort of nondescript animal we can well do without. He is usually snappish and ill-natured, and when not looking in the gutters for a living may be found chained up to a kennel in somebody's back yard. Those who own a dog of this kind may be recommended to exchange it for a small terrier, which will not only cost the owner less in the way of food, but be less liable to bite his neighbour, his wife, or his children. When anyone is bitten by a dog the odds are two to one that the injury was caused by one of these common brown dogs. An injustice is done to the Emerald Isle when they are called "Irish retrievers," and this frequently happens. There are black dogs, with white on their breasts, of similar type and character. No doubt the disrepute in which even the well-bred retriever is held in many quarters, arises from the ill-fame which attends this cousin of his.

There are, however, brown retrievers that have better reputations, some are curly-coated, others wavy or straight coated. The latter are repeatedly produced from black parents, are very handsome, and equally useful as any other. Personally I have a great fancy for this pale or chocolate brown, wavy-coated retriever. He is a novelty, and if he shows dirt more than his black parents, his coat is equally glossy, and he is quite as good tempered and sociable. The white or pale primrose-coloured eye is objectionable in this variety as it is in the black. Mr. A. Money-Wigram showed an excellent specimen called Merle, which won second in a class for "retrievers any other colour than black," at the Kennel Club Show in June, 1889, and first in the same class in 1892. It is rather odd that in the Kennel Club Stud Book for 1892 the awards in several of these retriever classes at the Club Show are altogether omitted.

One of the prettiest retrievers I ever saw, and one of the best all round in coat, curl, docility of expression and otherwise, was Mr. J. H. Salter's handsome brown bitch Beauty III., and she was not misnamed. She was so good as to be able to win even against the blacks; her coat remained crisp and hard, and in disposition and temperament she was quite an example to other dogs. Beauty was born of

pure brown parents, her sire being Prince Rupert, dam Pearl. Rupert was a well known good dog on the bench, winning, like her daughter, even when pitted against the black variety, and it is rather odd that his sire, King Koffee, black, usually had a brown puppy in each litter when mated with Pearl. From this cross Mr. Salter is desirous of obtaining a distinctly brown strain, which he considers more useful for his description of wildfowl and snipe shooting. Rupert, though over ten years of age, is still alive and able to undergo a day's hard work in the Essex marshes, will plunge into the water in the coldest weather, go into the sea under any conditions, and retrieve a jack snipe as tenderly as a cat would carry her kitten. This is no doubt a useful sort of dog to have. The strain should be perpetuated if possible, and it is much to be regretted that Beauty's owner was unable to obtain any puppies from her.

There is supposed to be a Norfolk retriever, but this is no special strain, being black, brown, black and tan, or any other colour; an undoubted cross between an ordinary field spaniel and some other retriever. Such cross-bred dogs are useful on the "Broads" when the shooting season is on, and, being hardy, are, when trained, perhaps better adapted for wildfowl shooting than the more

attractive and cared for varieties that are the popular idols at the present time.

But, after all, there are almost all sizes and conditions of retrievers. There were trials of water-dogs arranged in connection with the Maidstone show in May, 1876, and here many varieties competed, including Newfoundlands. It was, however, acknowledged on all hands, that, by far the best work, in retrieving, diving, and swimming, was performed by a black and white retriever, semi-curly in coat, and one that, in the show ring, no judge would have looked at a second time. Still, it beat such known cracks as the belauded Theodore Nero, and easily took the first prize. The dog was Mr. T. Cole's Nero.

John Colquhoun, in his "Moor and the Loch," descants in praiseworthy terms of his wild-fowl retriever that was a cross between a water spaniel and a terrier. In appearance it was not unlike a modern Airedale terrier, but doubtless one of the most useful dogs ever bred, and in a boat would do better than a larger and curlier animal, as he would bring less water in with him when retrieving his master's ducks. Such dogs are, however, liable to be hard-mouthed; still, I have myself owned terriers, and have one now—an Irishman—that will carry an egg in a cup without breaking either, or a

piece of tissue paper without soiling it in the least. But such dogs as these have taken naturally to their work, and no amount of training would persuade or teach them to do what they like to perform of their own accord.

One of the best retrievers I ever owned was a sorry looking customer—a cross between a badly bred collie dog and an illegitimate retriever slut. His curly tail would have been a credit to an Esquimaux. But a dog does not carry a bird or a hare with his stern, nor does his intelligence lie therein. Although the dog "Dick" was not more than forty pounds weight, and had a small head and jaw, he could carry two rabbits easily. This he did often enough when I happened to be shooting with a friend, and a couple of rabbits had been stopped simultaneously by smart first barrels. Dick was so jealous that he persisted in bringing both to his master.

To prove the general uses an intelligent well-trained retriever may be put to, it may not be out of place to mention that quite recently a very mongrel-looking specimen of the breed figured in a most interesting fashion in a London police-court. A man was charged with having sundry umbrellas in his possession of which he could give no satisfactory account. It was alleged that he had trained his dog

to snatch such articles from the hands of unsuspicious ladies, make off with his spoil, following a light cart, in which the defendant and his wife were seated. In due course the purloined article was taken from the dog by its owner, who was then apprehended and charged, as stated. Eventually the case against him was dismissed. I am told that the dog did the trick well; still it is scarcely right to train any creature to such a dishonest practice.

Then about the same time another retriever saved a child from drowning in the Thames, the owner, unable to swim himself, sending in his dog to the rescue of the struggling infant, who had fallen off the tow-path, and was being washed away by the receding tide.

Not long ago an interesting presentation took place at Cardiff, the captain of a Liverpool steam ship being presented with the bronze medal of the Board of Trade for saving life, under the following circumstances: A boat was capsized when leaving a wreck, the occupants being thrown into the heavy sea; Captain Nickels twice swam out into the surf and saved four men from drowning. But he was assisted greatly by a retriever dog, who later, when his master, Mr. Pengelly, who had been assisting in the rescue, was about exhausted and struggling in the water, seized him by the collar and

brought him safely to land, otherwise he would have lost his life. The dog was presented with a new collar, which he well deserved.

In many deer forests in Scotland retrievers are used in connection with deer stalking, and are said to be more useful in bringing to bay a wounded stag than the ordinary deerhound. Indeed, a good-tempered dog of the retriever kind, when nicely trained, is a most useful animal, but when kept as a watch dog chained to a barrel in the backyard, or allowed to follow the gutter for a livelihood, he is treacherous in the extreme, and as such to be avoided.

If you require a retriever for show purposes, buy one to answer your requirements; but, if such a dog is required for work, either by land or water or both, do not mind what colour or shape he may be, so long as his character for intelligence and tenderness is satisfactory. Beware of the hard-mouth, of that cold unlovable face and light yellow eye that denote ill-nature and querulousness that in the end will lead to mischief. You, perhaps, will not be able to get hold of such dogs as two or three "H.H." so pleasantly mentions in his practical and valuable work, "The Scientific Education of Dogs for the Gun." One that broke from the bush the bough upon which the lost fly cast hung, and ran eighty yards down stream

to break the ice in order that the wounded duck could come to the hole to breathe, and so be caught. Colonel Hutchinson tells us of another retriever that was in the habit of acting as "whipper-in" where the spaniels were concerned, seizing any dog of the team in his mouth and giving it a good shaking for not "down charging" when required, or for rushing in front of the remainder of the team, with which it worked, and trying to demolish the wounded pheasant.

Retrievers that perform such feats as the above are not of every day occurrence, and are only to be made by constant companionship with an owner who understands their every movement, and can read what is passing in their minds by looking into their eyes.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE SPANIEL.

DOG shows, and the consequent breeding for so-called fancy points, have completely altered the character of our English spaniels—at least, of a majority of those we see winning in the rings nowadays. Such are, as a rule, quite a different article to the animal old painters placed upon their canvases, and which writers of previous generations described in the pages of their volumes.

There is no doubt that the spaniel, as he is generally known, preceded the setter, who was produced from him, and was trained to "sett" game long before the pointer came to be introduced to this country. It has been said both came from Spain originally, a country that was also stated to be the home of the British bulldog. Surely the land of sherry wine and bull fights has much to answer for, and may be deemed fortunate in obtaining the reputation of being the original manufacturer of such valuable animals.

Juliana Barnes, or Berners, wrote of spaniels in 1486, so did Dr. Keyes, or Caius; and later, in 1677, Nicholas Cox, in his "Gentleman's Recreation," copied what both his predecessors had said about them, and added what remarks Gervase Markham had made on the same subject. Then we must not forget what Aldrovandus wrote early in the sixteenth century, and the engravings he gave of sundry varieties of the Spanish dog, which are described in a preceding chapter on the setter. One of these he called "pantherius," because it was spotted, *i.e.*, more or less ticked, as are many of the handsomer setters and spaniels of the present day.

In Cox's time, and earlier, the spaniel was in great measure used as an assistance in hawking, and he says "how necessary a thing it is to falconry I think nobody need question as well as to spring and retrieve a fowl being flown to the mark, and also in divers and other ways to help and assist falcons and goshawks." He then alludes to cutting the tails of spaniels, about which he says, "it is necessary, for several reasons, to cut off the tip of a spaniel's stern when it is a whelp. First, by doing so worms are prevented from breeding there; in the next place, if it be not cut, he will be the less forward in pressing hastily into the covert after his game; besides this benefit, the dog

appears "more beautiful." This custom of tail docking has continued to this day, we practising it, because the spaniel in working covert is less likely to injure his tail by lashing it backwards and forwards and tearing it amongst the tangled briers and the thick undergrowth.

But even prior to such early times, we have mention made of the spaniel as of use in hawking, and "hys crafte was also for the perdrich or partridge, and the quaile; and, when taught to couche he is very serviceable to the fowlers who take those birds with nets." In a fourteenth century MS. there is a picture of ladies hawking, they being attended by two dogs with long ears, no doubt intended to represent the spaniel of that period.

The spaniel in his two varieties, the land and water spaniel, was the sporting dog in these early days, and in "The Master of the Game," written early in the fifteenth century, we are told that this dog "hath many good customs and evil; he should have a large head and body, be of fair hue, white or tawny, and not too rough; but his tail should be rough and feathered."

The Prince to whom we are indebted for this early treatise further says, the breed came from Spain, although it was to be had in other countries,

and those that were used for hawking were "baffers," *i.e.*, they gave tongue.

From these two breeds of spaniels, I believe, have sprung all the varieties known at the present time, not excluding the toy spaniels. Writers on canine matters so recently as within the present century, have told us that the Blenheim spaniel was at that time used for covert shooting, and was useful in such a capacity. Now it is purely and simply a lap or toy dog, and the most perfect specimens that are seen on the show benches would likely enough come off but second best in a tussle with a good wild rabbit.

The extraordinary sagacity and affectionate disposition of the spaniel have repeatedly formed a theme for those who delight to dwell on anecdotes relating to dogs. Unfortunately, in most instances, the variety of spaniel is not mentioned, so one is at a loss to know whether to give the credit of such extraordinary intelligence to the little creature that has been the pampered favourite of monarchs and ladies since the days of the Stuarts, or to that equally valuable animal that assists the sportsman to fill his bag with either feathered or ground game, or both.

But, as already hinted, the show era has wrought an extraordinary change in the character and appearance of our spaniels, and in vain we look for the old

curly-coated water variety that our grandfathers valued so highly, or for the equally useful and smaller dog, some twenty pounds weight or so, that would with equal facility "fetch" a stick that had been thrown into the water, or retrieve a rabbit with a hind leg broken that in vain struggled to reach the sanctuary of its burrow.

With, perhaps, few exceptions, the chief being the Clumber and Irish variety, our show spaniel of to-day is not a sportsman's dog—a fancy creature merely, whose coat requires as much grooming as that of a Yorkshire terrier, and the slightest waviness thereon would be as fatal to its chances of success before some judges as if it had but one eye, and unable to see with that one. Crooked forelegs, malformed elbows and shoulders, are often allowed to pass muster in the show ring, but a curly or wavy coat seldom.

Personally I should disqualify dogs with crooked, disproportioned fore legs, however long they might be in body, however "near the ground" (meaning, however short the legs), and however straight the coat. These abnormally formed dogs—"long and low" their owners love to call them—have completely usurped the position that the old fashioned field spaniel formerly occupied, and the modern edition is neither so handsome nor so useful as the original

one. The coats of the new may be straighter, shinier, and more glossy, but in most cases the spaniel character has disappeared, and nothing so good occupies its position. I know the owners of these show dogs will still sell such specimens for a hundred pounds each or more, and will not agree with these remarks, but they are true nevertheless.

Some of the breeders with whom I have had acquaintance have considered it an advantage to be able to produce at least three so-called varieties from the same crosses. A black spaniel may be a brother to a Sussex or liver coloured specimen in the adjoining class; and further away it might be possible to find a liver and white, or blue and white, or black and tan, brother or sister to the others taking leading honours in a third class. Happily, in a few instances, one or two old varieties of field spaniel have been kept fairly pure, notably the Clumber and the Sussex, of which more anon. Still, even the best strains of the Sussex are often enough supplanted by dogs with "black blood" running in their veins, because they happen to be half an inch longer in the body and have longer ears, the latter actually detrimental in his proper vocation of life that Nature brought him into the world to perform.

The early grouping of the spaniels at our shows

was not satisfactory, and at the initial Birmingham exhibitions but four classes were provided, two for Clumbers and two for "any other variety." About 1862 an improvement was wrought, Irish water spaniels were specially provided for, and later the classes were divided, not by colour or variety, but according to weight. Thus dogs exceeding 25lb. weight competed separately, so did dogs below that standard, and the bitches were restricted to over and under 20lb.

Now matters are different, colour is taken into consideration, and type and variety to a limited extent. In the best arranged schedules individual classes are provided for Clumbers (2), Irish Water Spaniels (2), Sussex or liver coloured (2), black (2), any other colour (1), and for cockers (2). In addition challenge classes may be made as is deemed desirable. The cockers are usually restricted to 25lb. in weight, which is five pounds too heavy.

The old fashioned English water spaniel appears to have altogether disappeared, and now this curly-coated brown and white, retriever-like, but smaller, dog is not to be found, and remains only in the pictures engraved by Bewick and drawn by Reinagle and others. The "Sportsman's Cabinet" has a nice picture of this dog, and even so recent a writer as

Youatt (1845) illustrates and describes him. The variety has, however, been improved off the face of the earth, so will soon be forgotten.

The Spaniel Club, established in 1885, has issued its description of the spaniel in his varieties in a most exhaustive form, and this includes, besides those already mentioned, and more fully alluded to further on, the Norfolk spaniel. In the case of the cocker, divisions are made, the "black" and the "any other colour" being separated, making, indeed, the two varieties out of the one. Why this has been done it is difficult to imagine, unless because members of the club are desirous of bringing into the cocker classes little black spaniels altogether of the modern type; and such are not cockers at all. They are miniature specimens of the ordinary black field spaniels, and are bred from that stock.

The Norfolk spaniel is not now acknowledged by the public as a variety, though it is by the Spaniel Club. I have already said that the English water spaniel is pretty nearly extinct, and I have not seen one on the show bench for very many years. However, to give completeness, I have appended all the points and descriptions issued by the Club, and they will no doubt prove of value for reference in the future.

No doubt the Spaniel Club has done some good in defining the varieties, describing them, and in looking after their interests at shows and exhibitions, but they have entirely neglected his working qualifications. At one period it was thought field trial competitions would have been provided, but the difficulties of arranging them satisfactorily must always be in the way of such gatherings. Personally I scarcely see how spaniel trials could be conducted, for in reality most of those who hold large kennels of spaniels for sporting purposes use them as teams. In fact the modern human beater—the fustian-clad yokel, with a long and stout stick and a Stentorian cry of "Cock! cock! cock!"—has long ago pretty well ousted the merry cockers or the more staid Clumber for beating the coverts; certainly an innovation not at all a desirable one.

There is no prettier sight than to see a team of well-trained spaniels drop instantaneously to command or to gun fire. In reality covert work is the proper thing for spaniels to do. Some years ago, when the Knipe Scar and other coursing meetings were held over the Lowther estates of the Earl of Lonsdale, the coverts were occasionally beaten by an excellent team of liver and white spaniels. It was pleasant to see them driving their game out of the thick undergrowth of brambles and furze. When

a hare was well away a shot was fired and each individual spaniel dropped instanter. There they remained whilst the greyhounds were running their hare in the open. The course ended, and by command the spaniels were up again, as busy as possible, and so the day's proceedings were continued until nearly dark, when the coursing men had a long walk home before reaching headquarters, stopping, however, on their way to partake of the "roast beef of Old England," and its strong ale, spread upon the hospitable boards at the Castle. Certainly all round a better kind of sport than is to be had by modern coursing in the enclosed grounds.

As to the "field trials for spaniels," perhaps in due time some one will come forward with a scheme by which they may be conducted successfully in public; but the judge who would award the prizes to the satisfaction of the owners of such dogs as might be entered would have a position that no man could envy.

CHAPTER XX.

THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL.

EARLY in 1859 a considerable amount of correspondence appeared in the *Field* with regard to Irish Water Spaniels. There had been writers on the matter who knew little or nothing about the dog in question, and now inquiries were made as to what the Irish Spaniel was and what he had been. "Smack" wrote of the "St. Leger breed," and of an excellent strain kept by Lord Erne; and the same week another admirer of the variety wrote from Dublin that, after long and diligent search, he found the "real Irish water spaniel one of the hardest animals to procure."

Further, he says the colour is almost invariably of "a rich liver; the coat long, curly, and matted; the head peculiarly long, and almost hidden by long, silky ears, much longer than any English retrievers; the tail is thin and nearly destitute of hair; and, lastly, the animal stands high on his legs, which are thickly and closely feathered. It unites the sagacity

of the poodle with the daring of the spaniel, and although, by reason of its coat, nearly useless in covert, still no day is too long, no water too cold; and happy indeed ought the wild fowler to be if he can procure a specimen of this invaluable and almost extinct breed."

The above and other letters brought a reply from Mr. M'Carthy, who had for long been looked up to as the authority on the variety, and his communication to the *Field* (February 19th, 1859) must be taken as the most important contribution on the subject that had hitherto appeared. From this description of his strain, the type of water spaniel was formed, and so it has continued to the present day. Mr. M'Carthy wrote:—

"I have been the owner of the curly coated Irish water spaniel for the last thirty years, and have been, as it were, the godfather of most of those to be disposed of, the dealers always recommending their dogs by saying 'they are one of M'Carthy's real old breed.' I have bestowed many scores of dogs and bitches to gentlemen in every county in Ireland and many parts of England, and bitches have been sent to me from every part of this country for the services of my celebrated dog Boatswain, the patriarch of all the highly-bred dogs in the country,

"There is in reality but two breeds of the true Irish Water Spaniel. In the north the dog has generally short ears without any feather, and is very often of a pied white and brown colour; in the south, the dog is of pure liver colour, with long ears, and well curled, with short stiff curls all over the body. The present improved and fancy breed, called M'Carthy's breed, should run

thus: Dog from 21 inches to 22½ inches high (seldom higher when pure bred), head rather capacious, forehead prominent, face from eyes down perfectly smooth, ears from 24 inches to 26 inches from point to point. The head should be crowned with a well-defined top-knot, not straggling across like the common, rough water dog, but coming down in a peak on the forehead. The body should be covered with small crisp curls, which often become clogged in the moulting season. The tail should be round without feather underneath, rather short, and as stiff as a ramrod; the colour of a pure puce liver without any white.

"Though these dogs are of very high mettle, I have never found them untractable or difficult to train. They readily keep to heel and down-charge, and will find a dead or wounded bird anywhere, either in the open or in covert; but they are not partial to stiff, thorny brakes, as the briars catch in their curls and trail after them. It is advisable to give them a little training at night, so that in seeking objects they must rely upon their nose alone. For the gun they should be taught to go into the water like a duck; but when kept for fancy a good dog of this breed will take a flying jump of from twenty-five to thirty-five feet or more perpendicularly high into the water.

"My old dog Boatswain lived to about eighteen years old, when, although in good health and spirits, I was obliged to destroy him. . . . A good, well trained dog of this kind will not be obtained under from £10 to £20, and I have known £40 or £50 paid for one. They will not stand a cross with any other breed. . . . The pure breed has become very scarce; and although very hardy when grown up, they are very delicate as puppies."

Following the above, some special interest appeared for a time to be taken in Irish spaniels, and Captain Lindoe, R.N., Mr. E. Montressor, Mr. J. T. Robson, Mr. R. W. Boyle, Captain O'Grady, Mr.

J. S. Skidmore, Mr. N. Morton, and a few others took them in hand. But they never appeared to become popular, possibly because their coats were so often ragged and untidy, and, maybe, shooting men found other dogs equally useful for wild fowl purposes. In 1862 two classes were provided for them at Birmingham, and, although there were but three competitors the Curzon Hall executive have supported the Irish spaniel ever since, although, as a rule, competition is meagre and the entries are few.

To me it has been a matter of regret that nothing appears to be known as to the early history of the Irish water spaniel, and even Mr. M'Carthy omits to tell us where he first obtained his strain. Richardson is equally silent on the matter, and he an Irishman too. Still, he writes of and illustrates a dog similar to the breed already described. Gervase Markham (1595) tells of a "liver-hued water dog" that is "swiftest in swimming;" but he does not identify it with the Emerald Isle. Perhaps some one interested in the subject may yet be able to find out something as to the origin of this variety, and about what period it first came to be identified with the country from which it takes its name.

Without entering more fully into the particulars,

it may be as well to hear what Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich, has to say of the variety, and I thank him for his contribution thereon, especially as the Irish water spaniel is one of those dogs whose acquaintance I have only made through shows. Mr. Farrow writes as follows:—

"I remember as well as if only yesterday a very old sporting friend—a man who had done years of wild fowling on all the rivers and marshes in the East of England—coming up to me when I was engaged in a conversation with the late Mr. P. Bullock, going over the winners in the Irish Water Spaniel classes at a dog show held at Laycock's Dairy Yard, Islington, in 1869. Mr. Bullock's exhibit had obtained an extra prize, and the Rev. W. J. Mellor's Doctor and Bingo had been placed 1st and 3rd, and that good dog, Rake, Mr. P. Lindoe's, 2nd. 'Farrow,' said my old sporting friend, 'you don't want to trouble about those gentlemen; you would not use them twice in a boat, they carry too much water, with such a companion a boat is a miserable place to be in if you have any work to do.' This remark, however, did not stop the desire I had to go in for an Irish water spaniel at that time.

"I had certain rough shooting on some of the Essex marshes, and I found the Irish water

spaniel a fairly useful dog for such work; he has, however, never been a popular companion with sportsmen generally, and never will be, for the simple reason that he is not the all round sportsman's dog many of his admirer's claim him to be. His great length of ear, coat, and feathering almost prevent him, for instance, working in covert, whereas a good squarely-built field spaniel of fair size, with a reasonable length of body, ear, and feathering, with a good dense coat, will do for you in water any and everything the Irish water spaniel can do, and perform in covert what the 'Irishman' cannot. Hence, since the history of dog exhibitions, this variety of water spaniel is standing still, and, on the contrary, there is an increase in the various kinds of field spaniels.

"Of course, it must not be understood that I believe all breeders of exhibition spaniels are sportsmen—it is a fact some are not—but I often think more is made of this point frequently than there is any sound justice for doing, and I state without fear of contradiction that a very large percentage of the breeders and exhibitors of the various classes of spaniels are also fond of their gun as well as their dog. Some of course have more opportunity than others for breeding and working their dogs. Another point which makes the ordinary springer or

field spaniel more popular than the water spaniel is its size; a 45lb. field spaniel can place himself without difficulty out of the way in a boat or dog-cart, but not so the bigger Irishman.

"Perhaps the most prominent breeder, certainly the most successful exhibitor of Irish water spaniels since the history of dog shows, is Mr. J. S. Skidmore, of Nantwich, who claims for this variety of spaniel a position as the most useful dog for the sportsman of limited means. Now, much as I respect this gentleman's views as to what a typical Irish water spaniel should be like, I cannot agree with him on this point. I regard the ordinary retriever or a fair-sized reasonably constructed field spaniel a much more useful dog. Let us take, for instance, an old cock pheasant, winged, in only a reasonable covert, and I should like to ask Mr. Skidmore what he thinks such specimens as some of his typical Irish water spaniels, measuring nearly a yard—I believe some of them measured over 30 inches—from tip to tip of ears, would do with a winged pheasant under such circumstances; or say a winged partridge in a ditch on a farm where high cultivation is unknown; in a dyke in which the undergrowth has not been touched for a dozen years.

"Again, in many specimens the coat is woolly in texture and too open and long; such a coat will

hold as much water as a blanket, and a dog with an abundance of feather of this woolly texture of hair is simply a nuisance. If you walk across a farm-yard with such a specimen he is not fit to look at, and if by chance you come across a bramble or piece of hedge clipping, and you do not notice it for a minute or so, a stop has to be made of two or three minutes to relieve the poor brute. I have seen a dog with this woolly class of coat and feathering rendered almost useless on a proper wildfowling day from the snow and ice freezing and hanging in balls or lumps as big as walnuts from the feathering, and to such an extent as to render the dog, before half the day was over, useless. I do not think this woolly open coat and feather is taken sufficient notice of by some of our judges; I believe it on the increase, and it is unquestionably the wrong class of coat for such a dog. I know we saw such coats years ago, but not so frequently as now.

"I have said before, and I repeat, that this variety of spaniels has never been, and never will be, a popular sporting dog with Englishmen. The breed has been encouraged by classes being provided at almost all the principal exhibitions from their very commencement, still the Irish water spaniel has not made headway, and to-day is declining in both numbers and typical specimens when com-

pared with what were to be found ten or a dozen years ago.

"The origin of the Irish water spaniel is a matter no authority, or any one else, has ventured to say much about, and give anything like a definite opinion. We know years ago Ireland possessed two, if not more, varieties, in the north and south. We also know that to-day, and indeed since dog shows commenced, that our judges have taken the south of Ireland type for their standard of what an Irish water spaniel should be like. We know, also, that years ago more care was exercised by gentlemen in the south of Ireland to establish a type than those in the north; hence 'Stonehenge,' in his last work, making the following remark in his article on this variety of spaniel: 'At the present time the M'Carthy strain may be considered to be the type of the Irish water spaniel, and his description, published in the *Field*, and quoted on another page, is the standard by which the breed is judged, and must, therefore, be so regarded.' I may just remark that in my opinion the common 'water dog,' as known in 1803, a capital illustration of which appears in the 'Sportsman's Cabinet,' so often alluded to in these days, had a great deal to do with the originality of this variety of spaniel. Indeed, even down to the specimens seen to-day, in outline, the water

dog referred to, much resembles the Irish water spaniels of the present period. Take, for instance, the top-knot and coat, the length of back, the length from hip to hock, the length of face, and one must, in my humble opinion, notice the similarity.

"The Irish water spaniel of to-day is looked after by two clubs, one in England and the other in Ireland. The former club has this year revised its standard of points, but the revision, in my opinion, is not an improvement on the old standard. Take the description of head, for instance, which is as follows: 'Capacious skull, rather raised on dome and fairly wide, showing large brain capacity. The dome appears higher than it really is, being surmounted by the crest or top-knot.'

"Not a word is said about the 'face,' the length of face—the very point in the breed that such an acknowledged authority as 'Stonehenge' goes out of his way to describe as 'very peculiar.' The face, in my opinion, and in the opinion of many old breeders, is a most remarkable and important feature of the breed. Take the top-knot again, another characteristic point of the breed, and it is very badly handled by the Club. Nothing like sufficient importance is given to it. In the remarks in the descriptive particulars of the coat we read as

follows: 'Top-knot should fall well over the eyes.' Now, from such a description, one, I take it, would be satisfied if the top-knot came over the dog's eyes and was cut off quite square or straight across the face, as it is seen to-day on some of our chief prize winners. Such a top-knot I think wrong, and it always reminds me of the poodle's wig. The top-knot in a good specimen falls 'between' and over the eyes in a 'peaked' form, and not across the eyes or face, like a poodle's.

"Years ago light eyes were looked upon as a bad fault. Judges often put such specimens back, and the critics noted the fault in their reports, but to-day the amber-coloured eye is almost fashionable. Anyhow, many of the principal winners have amber-coloured eyes, and such are recognised by the spaniel clubs. What, in fact, years ago, was one of the most objectionable points in the breed, is now, to a certain extent, allowed. That this altered state of things will last I do not believe, as I am quite certain, although the 'amber'-coloured eye is recognised by several influential breeders and exhibitors, it is not liked by 25 per cent. of the breeders of Irish water spaniels throughout England and Ireland. And of one thing I am positive, the amber eye will now take a lot of getting rid of in the breed, and the longer it is allowed the more will this variety of

spaniel fail in popularity and numbers. I have letters from several old breeders, who from no other cause, have recently lost their interest in the breed.

"That the best specimens seen at our exhibitions now, could hold their own with the best ten or twenty years ago I do not believe. I am not one of the ancient pessimists who consider that years since everything was so much better than is the case at the present time; but certain it is that Irish water spaniels of the past on the bench were more typical and perfect specimen than they are now.

"Let us compare a few of the principal prize dogs that were winning at shows held at the end of the sixties. I will take Mr. J. S. Skidmore's Doctor (2061), Captain Lindoe's Rake (2088), and Mr. Skidmore's Duck (2066). Now I am quite certain any one of these three specimens, for length of face, formation of head throughout, colour of eye, length of ears, top-knot, and quality of coat—although perhaps not in colour of coat—would simply romp away from any one of the three specimens now winning in the challenge classes at our show say Shaun, Harp, and the Shaughraun.

"I now come to a more recent period—say ten years ago; and I venture to state that few,

if any, breeder or gentleman who has taken an interest in this variety, of spaniel will contradict me when I state that our present champions could not possibly have been in it, point for point with the prominent winners at that time. Take, for instance, such dogs as Mr. Skidmore's Mickey Free (10,393), Mr. Hockey's Young Patsey (10,397), and the same gentleman's Lady (9250) and other big winners about this time. It may be said it is all very well to simply say that the prominent winning specimens ten years ago were so much ahead of the present prominent winners, but tell us, in your opinion, in what way, in which particular points, these specimens could beat the present winners? For argument's sake I will take the most prominent winning bitch of ten years or so ago —Young Hilda (born 1878, breeder and exhibitor, Mr. G. S. Hockey) and Champion Harp (born 1885, breeder and exhibitor, Colonel the Hon. W. Le Poer Trench). Now I say that in length of face, expression, colour of eye, colour and texture of coat and outline, there is no comparison between these two specimens; and it is in the points I have described where Champion Harp loses so much when compared with Young Hilda. Thus, my opinion is, that the specimens seen generally to-day are behind those of ten years and twenty years ago.

"The home of this breed, or rather what is called the home of the breed, Ireland, has never, since the history of dog shows, produced many 'sensations,' as a look through the Kennel Club Stud Books will confirm. However, one of the most perfect specimens, and I think the best specimen bred in Ireland, seen at our dog shows was Larry Doolin (4384), a dog exhibited on several occasions at English shows, years ago, by Mr. N. Morton, and later by Messrs. R. B. and T. S. Carey."

Following Mr. Farrow's exhaustive and critical remarks, with most of which I am completely in accord, especially so far as his strictures on the light coloured eyes are concerned, little remains for me to say. He, however, somewhat overstates his case about the "amber" eyes being almost fashionable, for in the Spaniel Club's scale appended, such eyes are handicapped to the extent of ten negative points.

The principal exhibitors of Irish water spaniels at the present time are Colonel the Hon. W. Le Poer Trench, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks; Mr. J. C. Cockburn, Glasgow; Mr. T. C. Tisdall, Monaghan, Ireland; Mr. J. A. Hearne, Midlothian; Mr. J. Unsworth, near Stockport; Mr. G. T. Millar, Denbigh; Mr. W. W. Thomson, Mitcham; Mr.

J. C. Brown, Tewkesbury; the Rev. N. Milne; and Mr. T. J. Hurley, Killaloe.

The Club's points and description are as follows:

Positive Points.	
Head and jaw	10
Eyes	5
Top-knot	5
Ears	10
Neck	7½
Body	7½
Fore-legs	5
Hind-legs	5
Feet	5
Stern	10
Coat	15
General appearance	15
Total Positive Points	100

Negative Points.	
Light yellow or gooseberry eyes	10
Cording, or tags of dead or matted hair	12
Moustache, or poodle hair on cheek	5
Lank, open, or woolly coat	7
A natural sandy, light coat	8
Furnishing of tail more than half way down to sting	7
Setter-feathering on legs	10
White patch on chest	6
Total Negative Points	65

Disqualifications.—Total absence of top-knot; a fully feathered tail; any white patch on any part of the dog, except a small one on chest or toe.

Descriptive Particulars.

"*Head.*—Capacious skull, rather raised in dome and fairly wide, showing large brain capacity. The dome appears higher than it really is, from its being surmounted by the crest or top-knot, which should

grow down to a point between the eyes, leaving the temple smooth.

"*Nose.*—Dark liver coloured, rather large, and well developed.

"*Eyes.*—Comparatively small. Dark amber and very intelligent looking.

"*Ears.*—Set on rather low. In a full-sized specimen the leather should not be less than 18 inches, and with feather about 24 inches. The feather on the ear should be long, abundant, and wavy.

"*Neck.*—Should be 'pointer-like,' *i.e.*, muscular, slightly arched, and not too long. It should be strongly set on the shoulders.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Height at shoulder from 20 to 23 inches, according to sex and strain; body, fair sized, round, barrel shaped, and well ribbed up.

"*Shoulder and chest.*—Chest deep, and *not* too narrow; shoulders strong, rather sloping, and well covered with hard muscle.

"*Back and loin.*—Back strong, loins trifle arched and powerful, so as to fit them for the heavy work of beating through sedgy, muddy sides of rivers.

"*Hind quarters.* — Round and muscular, and slightly drooping towards the set on of the stern.

"*Stern.*—A 'whip tail,' thick at base and tapering to a 'sting.' The hair on it should be short, straight, and close lying, excepting for a few inches from its root, where it gradually merges into the body coat in some short curls.

"*Feet and Legs.*—'Fore-legs' straight, well boned. They should be well furnished with wavy hair all round and down to the feet, which should be large and round. 'Hind-legs' stifle long, hock set low; they should be well furnished except from the hock down the front.

"*Coat.*—Neither woolly nor lank, but should consist of short crisp curls right up to the stern. Top-knot should fall well over the eyes. It, and furnishing of ears, should be abundant and wavy.

"*Colour.*—Dark rich liver or puce (to be judged by its original colour). A sandy light coat is a defect. Total absence of white desirable; any except a little on chest or a toe, should disqualify.

"*General Appearance.*—That of a strong, compact, dashing-looking dog, with a quaint and very intelligent aspect. They should not be leggy, as power and endurance are required of them in their work. Noisy and joyous when out for a spree, but mute on game." And it may be stated that the

Irish water spaniel is the only dog of his variety not subjected to the custom of having his tail docked or shortened.

The weight of the Irish water spaniel should be from 50lb. to 60lb., or, maybe, a trifle over the latter figures. Colonel the Hon. Le Poer Trench's well-known dog Shaun, at five years old, scales 64lb.; his young dog Shamus, at one and a half years old, 63lb.; his bitch Harp, at eight and a half years old, 54lb.; and the three and a half years old Erin, 61lb. These three dogs are amongst the best specimens of their variety before the public at the present time, and so it is interesting to be able to give their several weights.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE ENGLISH WATER SPANIEL.

PERSONALLY I should not have taken any further notice of this variety than has already been done, believing it to be almost, if not entirely, extinct, its place now being occupied by the ordinary retriever; but the Spaniel Club still acknowledges it, so some introduction to their description is required.

The old-fashioned water dog our great grandfathers used was the English water spaniel. Mostly liver and white in colour, with a curly coat, it was just such an animal as would be produced through a cross between the modern brown curly-coated retriever and an ordinary liver and white spaniel Reinagle, in the "Sportsman's Cabinet," gives us such a dog, and later, so recently as 1845, Youatt describes and illustrates the "Water Spaniel." That writer gives it a good character for docility, &c., and Ewan Smith draws him not unlike a modern curly retriever, but evidently liver and white. Certainly his illustration makes this spaniel a bigger dog than

we should have taken the English water spaniel ever to have been. However, the dog is not bred or kept now as a special variety, nor is there much likelihood of its being quickly resuscitated. Youatt said that the true breed was, even at the time he wrote, lost, and the variety was then a cross between the "water dog" and the English setter.

However, I believe that the old "water dog" and the English water spaniel were identical, and my opinion is pretty well supported by those who may be considered authorities on the matter.

At some of the earlier Birmingham dog shows classes were provided for English water spaniels, but few entries were obtained, and, these becoming fewer and fewer, the classes were discontinued entirely. I have not seen such a spaniel on the bench or in the ring for a long time; the Kennel Club Stud book during the past few years will be searched in vain for an entry of the breed, and the last so entered in 1886 had no pedigree attached to them. Curiosities rather than eligibilities for any Stud Book.

In some recent remarks on the English water spaniel Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich, says:

The grandest specimen of this variety of spaniel I ever saw was Mr. P. Bullock's Rover, which I came across at Birmingham in 1869, when awarded the second prize in the English Water

Spaniel dog class. Although beaten for the first place at this exhibition, he made such an impression upon me that I can see him in my mind's eye at the time of writing these notes, almost as clearly as when I was looking at him at the Birmingham Show in 1869. I had more than one conversation with those old spaniel and sporting dog judges, Mr. W. Lort and the Rev. Frank Pearce ("Idstone") in reference to this dog, and both thought him a most typical specimen. He won first prize at Birmingham in 1866, 1868, 1870, and at the Crystal Palace, and gold medal at Paris in 1865 —the latter a win that, however, the owner and breeder of Rover thought more of, and a medal he was more pleased to show his friends than, any of his numerous other prizes. This dog was a beautiful bright chestnut red in colour, with a very deep square body, which was not long, legs straight, and about twice as long as the fashionable field spaniel seen at our present exhibitions, with beautiful flat bone, which in quantity was sufficient to carry his grand body without being lumbersome. I never heard the weight of Rover, but should judge him, in show form, about 48lb.; his tail had been shortened a bit, but was rather long; his neck was simply grand, and sprung from the very best of working placed shoulders, and his head was simply a study. Nothing in the show world at the present time have we, even in the numerous beautiful field spaniels, black, exhibited, have we a head with such quality. The occiput showed itself slightly, and the head was of considerable length throughout, the length from eye to occiput and eye to nose being so beautifully balanced; the brows very cleanly cut, muzzle grandly developed, with just the correct quantity of flew required to give a nice squareness; the eyes dark, showing no haw, but just a little bit of "coral" could be seen at the inner corner of each eye, and the whole face was brimful of spaniel fondness, life, and intelligence; ears long, well feathered inside as well as outside, and placed low, altogether making up such a head as I would willingly travel 500 miles to see once again. The coat was dense, but silky in texture, the curl of which was not so close or crisp as we like in an Irish water

spaniel; his curl was indeed more of a ringlet, with not a particle of topknot; the feathering on legs was not so abundant as is seen on the Irish water spaniel, and was of the right texture for work.

Another smart English water spaniel I remember well was Flo, also born in 1869, a winner for several years at Birmingham. Flo was a daughter of Rover, the dog I have just given a description of, and was bred by Mr. Bullock, but nearly always shown by the Hon. Capt. Arbuthnott. This bitch was liver in colour, but of a lighter shade, and not so bright in hue as her sire. Her body was longer, but nothing like so square as Rover's, and she was, perhaps, rather high on the legs, and lacked the workmanlike and typical outline of her sire. A liver and white ticked dog named Don, shown by a Mr. Crisp, was placed over her at one of the Curzon Hall shows, and later this dog did some important winning, but Rover often beat him, and was a long way the more typical of the two. Don's pedigree was never very clearly defined, and, although he had a lot of good sound English water spaniel points about him, he had also points about him that one could see favoured the ordinary springer, or land spaniel; or, in other words, Don was not so distinctly typical of the variety as Rover, Flo, and others from the then famous Bilston kennels.

These dogs mentioned by Mr. Farrow, and which I recollect perfectly well myself, may be said to be about the most typical of their race of modern times. Similar animals are not produced now, but if there be any one anxious to resuscitate this once favourite dog, there is plenty of material for him to commence working upon, and it would not take long to re-introduce the variety, though perhaps a dog of such excellence as Rover would not be produced for some time to come.

The following are the Club's points and description of the English water spaniel.

Positive Points.		Negative Points.	
Head, jaw, and eyes	20	Feather on stern	10
Ears	5	Top-knot	10
Neck	5		
Body	10		
Fore-legs	10		
Hind-legs	10		
Feet	5		
Stern	10		
Coat	15		
General Appearance	10		
Total Positive Points	100	Total Negative Points	20

Descriptive Particulars.

"*Head.*—Long, somewhat straight and rather narrow; muzzle rather long, and, if anything, rather pointed.

"*Eyes.*—Small for the size of the dog.

"*Ears.*—Set on forward, and thickly clothed with hair inside and out.

"*Neck.*—Straight.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Large, and very deep throughout; back ribs well developed, not quite so long as in field spaniels.

"*Nose.*—Large.

"*Shoulders and chest.*—Shoulders low and chest rather narrow, but deep.

"*Back and loin.*—Strong but not clumsy.

"*Hind quarters.* — Long and straight; rather rising toward the stern than drooping, which, combined with the low shoulder, gives him the appearance of standing higher behind than in front.

"*Stern.*—Docked from 7 to 10 inches according to the size of the dog, carried a little above the level of the back, but by no means high.

"*Feet and legs.*—Feet well spread, large and strong; well clothed with hair, especially between the pads. Legs long and strong; the stifles well bent.

"*Coat.*—Covered either with crisp curls or with ringlets; no top-knot, but the close curl should cease on the top of the head, leaving the face perfectly smooth and lean looking.

"*Colour.*—Black and white, liver and white, or self-coloured black or liver. *The pied for choice.*

"*General Appearance.* — Sober-looking, with rather a slouching gait and a general independence of manner, which is thrown aside at the sight of a gun."

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER XXII.

THE CLUMBER SPANIEL.

WITH the Irish water spaniel it may be said that shows have wrought less change in the Clumber spaniel than they have done in any other variety of dog. The reason for this is not far to seek, for the latter is but a comparatively modern introduction; he does not stand crossing well, and has come to be so bred in and in, that the tendency has been towards making him delicate and difficult to rear, rather than to alter or completely change his type, according to the fashion prevailing at the hour.

That fashion does change in canine matters pretty much as it does in dress and otherwise, no one having any knowledge of dogs will deny. About fifty years ago, William Youatt wrote his book about the dog. Strangely, he never mentions the Clumber spaniel, but gives an illustration of the English water spaniel. The latter is obsolete now, the former has classes provided for him at all shows

that pertain to leading rank, and is a fairly popular dog likewise.

We all know that this dog takes its name from Clumber near Worksop, one of the seats of the Duke of Newcastle, and where that dog has been kept from its first introduction to this country to the present time. When that first introduction took place is not exactly known, but it was probably about the middle of the eighteenth century when the Duc de Nouailles presented the then Duke of Newcastle with a number of spaniels, which in France had a reputation as being better than others, as they were steady workers and easily brought under command, *i.e.*, there was little difficulty in training them. This good character remains with them at the present day. For many years the breed was kept at Clumber, and so zealously guarded and so identified with the place, that in due time it came to bear the name of the seat, which is still retained This appears to be the early history of the Clumber spaniel, and, although in various parts of France many spaniels are still found and used in work, I have not been able to trace any kennels of true Clumbers in that country.

That the Clumbers were with the Duke of Newcastle at the end of last century proof remains on canvas. There is a portrait of his Grace, seated

on a shooting pony and surrounded by a group of his spaniels, which are identical with the Clumbers of the present day, though, perhaps, they appear rather smaller, and are rather longer in the head, than the majority of the best dogs we see now. At that time, or rather a few years later, a writer in the "Sporting Magazine" called them "springers" or "cock-flushers." This admirable and useful picture, the work of F. Wheatley, R.A., was, in 1797, engraved; the painting itself remains, copies of the engraving are still extant, and, although highly valued by the admirers of spaniels who own them, others are occasionally to be found in the leading shops that deal in such treasures.

Dog shows were unknown then, and the spaniel was kept solely for working purposes. In due course, this strain from Clumber came to be somewhat spread about the country, though comparatively scarce and highly valued. That the latter was the case may be inferred from the fact that, at the first Birmingham show, say in 1859, a class was provided for them, and the following year two divisions were given this handsome spaniel, and such have been continued ever since. At the early show Lord Spencer was the winner with a good looking dog, but the succeeding one saw Mr. E. Boaler, of near Chesterfield, taking first honours

in both classes, the Spencer kennel coming but second. On this occasion there were a dozen entries.

It was, however, in 1861 that the chief interest was caused, when there was a capital collection of seventeen dogs and bitches. Mr. C. E. Holford, of Weston Park, Tetbury, sent up an exceptionally smart team, and succeeded in winning all the six prizes awarded. Following, this kennel was for a time almost invincible when it was represented on the show bench, which was not often, as the dogs were kept for working the coverts, where they did what was expected of them very well indeed. Of late years Mr. Holford's Clumbers appear to have deteriorated very much, for when, about a year ago, they were dispersed at Aldridge's, in St. Martin's Lane, the puppies were but a sorry sample, and, with one or two exceptions, the old dogs were not much better. However, for a generation or two Mr. Holford's Clumbers formed one of the leading kennels of that variety in the country.

To hark back, Mr. Boaler's Bustle and Floss, that won in 1860 and at other shows about this period and later, were excellent specimens; lemon in markings, with good bodies, great bone, and certainly not excelled by any of the same race that appeared at these earlier shows. It is interesting to

note that at the present time a son of this Mr. Boaler—namely, Mr. G. Boaler, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, still has Clumber spaniels good enough to show and appear in the prize list, and of the same strain that his father won with thirty years ago. This kennel has been kept up for over fifty years, and it is owing only to the failing health of their owner that they do not appear oftener on the show bench.

It need scarcely be said, that in the first volume of the Kennel Club Stud Book classifications were given this dog, the entries reaching the excellent number of sixty-five.

At this period, no doubt, some peculiar decisions were given at our dog shows, where, in many cases, a judge undertook his duty without knowing anything at all about the breed upon which he had to adjudicate. Instances were not isolated where he awarded the prizes more to the man than the dog, and so, to his own satisfaction, got out of a difficulty into which his own self-assertion had led him. It is said that on the eve of one of the large shows there was a difficulty in obtaining a judge for Clumber spaniels. The secretary was at his wit's end and did not know what to do, when, seeing Mr. ——, one of the so-called "all-round" judges, a happy inspiration occurred. "Eh!"

called the secretary to the "all-round man." "You can judge Clumbers, can't you?" "Clumbers, Clumbers," was the reply; "what's them? Oh! I know; them big white dawgs with yallow marks. Yes, I've never seen but one or two, but I'll take them," and he did. What his decisions were may be easily imagined.

A year or two later than this, a comparatively unknown exhibitor had perhaps the best Clumber of the day. He showed it at one of the Crystal Palace shows, and, with a friend, was looking around the class preparatory to the judging, which then took place on the terrace. No doubt the dog in question was the best in his class, but two or three numbers away, a well-known exhibitor was "running" another Clumber. "Ah!" said the unknown owner, "my chance is poor to-day. That dog will win!" "Why?" replied his friend, "such cannot be; that dog is small and mean, no bigger much than a cocker." However, the "small and mean" did win, and was afterwards sold to someone, who at the same time must have been considerably sold himself; for his purchase was undoubtedly one of the very worst dogs in a class which included such grand specimens as Duke, Nabob, and others not far behind them.

These little stories are mentioned explanatory of

the difficulty breeders of Clumbers have had to contend with in the matter of judges. Moreover, the dog requires very great care in breeding or rearing, which in itself is quite as much as his admirers can put up with, without having additional suffering in the show ring. It has been said that no man ought to judge unless he had seen the breed he was handling at work, and had owned some of them himself. However, this is a question that may be argued *ad infinitum*, and is as applicable to any dog as much as to the one the name of which appears at the head of this chapter.

Mr. Wardle, in his illustration, has exceedingly well pourtrayed what a Clumber spaniel should be, and a little description of the two dogs may be interesting. That standing foremost possesses the perfect body of one of the best working dogs, but in the flesh its head is far from what it ought to be, so the artist has replaced it with the head from another dog, which is considered to be about as good as they can be obtained. The bitch behind is almost an exact likeness of the original, improved somewhat to approach that perfection which no dog has yet been able to reach.

In colour the body of the dog should be white, the ears coloured, spot on the occiput; and on the side of the face to the eye there should be lemon

markings, and the jaw must be well flecked or ticked with marks of a similar colour. There is a diversity of opinion as to what this colour should be. I prefer lemon, and this not too dark in shade; others prefer this lemon approaching, or quite, an orange hue. Liver or brown markings are quite wrong, and should certainly disqualify, however good the dog bearing them is in other particulars. As to colour that well-known admirer of the variety, Mr. J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, tells me that some few years ago he had a number of dogs with light lemon markings, but got rid of them, as they were not, in his opinion, nearly so attractive in teams as those of a darker shade—rather a peculiar statement to give as a reason for destroying or disposing of valuable dogs.

The head large, square, and fairly long, but so massive as to render the length not impressive; it should be broad on the top, with a decided occipital protuberance, heavy brows, with a deep stop; haw showing. Muzzle long, heavy, freckled, receding, with well developed flew; snipeyness, or a weak face, being very objectionable.

Recently there has been a dispute amongst writers as to whether the head should be unduly long or unduly short. I have no doubt on the point. The heads of the dogs in the picture of 1797 are long—

decidedly long; so are the muzzles, in which point they show a weakness, like many otherwise good dogs of the present day. With regard to this difference of opinion it must be remembered that, although this variety is often used in teams for covert shooting, it may be part of its duty to retrieve, and the jaw should be of a formation to enable the animal to carry a hare or pheasant with ease. Besides, the massive head is a great feature in the variety, and we cannot get massiveness without length. It is important that there should be no resemblance to the setter; but if the head I have described be borne in mind, and Mr. Wardle's drawing be referred to, there will be no likelihood of the setter type being produced, and we must remember that the deep stop is very important, also the drooping eye showing haw, as in the blood-hound.

The ears, whilst being large, look small for the size of the dog, and should not hang below the throat, but come slightly forward.

The neck is very thick, and the chest very heavily feathered. The shoulders particularly strong and muscular. The legs short, with as much bone as can be obtained. They should be straight, but here I would prefer a crooked legged rather than a long legged dog. They should be very heavily feathered.

With regard to this question of legs it must be remembered that the work of the dog is to hunt in front of the gun and flush game, but he should never go faster than a trot. I have found that if we get a dog with long legs, when he gets the scent he is apt to go away too quickly and flush his game out of shot. This is annoying, and the dog that will stick to his slow trot will keep on all day, always giving a chance for the gun, and so is much to be preferred.

The body should be long, *i.e.,* as long as possible consistently with being well ribbed up. If the latter point be obtained the body cannot be too long, but I have seen dogs of such a length as to be next to useless from a sportsman's point of view, and, however handsome they might be, unless well ribbed up, I should never award a prize to such a dog. It is said that the body should be low; this does not mean low from the back to the ground, but that the chest should be so deep and so heavily feathered as to show very little daylight underneath. The deeper the body and rounder the ribs the better. The back should be straight. The hindquarters are very powerful and heavily feathered, hocks set on low, and when the dog is standing showing well behind the body.

When looking at the dog with a side point of view

he should underneath appear level from front to rear; a great defect in some of the modern dogs being that, whilst well let down in front, they are tucked up behind like a greyhound. The tail should be straight (a fourth docked off), and carried at any rate level with the back, below rather than above it, and, like the hindquarters, should be very heavily feathered.

It is a great point of beauty in the Clumber that when the team is out at exercise or work the stern is on a continual move from side to side. I find that dogs which at exercise and at work invariably have beautiful tail action, are very apt, when taken from the bench into the judging ring, to carry their tails high. This is often done by the best dogs, and is in many cases the result of being in robust health and spirit. Before passing over a dog for this fault judges should wait as long as possible, and watch the effect of allowing the dog to quieten down. The coat should be straight and of medium texture. Coarse coated dogs are not handsome, and soft coated ones, when in work, are always getting heated in their skin; besides, a soft coat is not suitable for a dog whose work is principally in covert in the depth of winter.

With regard to his work, the Clumber is slow, very slow, but he never tires, and goes on day by

day. At many places they are worked in teams. At Knowsley, one of the seats of the Earl of Derby, from twenty-five to thirty Clumbers are used in this manner, as occasion requires.

The Clumber spaniel is mute, easily broken, and should be trained to drop to hand, wing, and shot. If a large number of dogs are worked together it is better that they should not be taught to retrieve, but if only a few are required for woodcock and for general shooting (for which they are invaluable) then retrieving should be a *sine qua non*. They take to this naturally. To teach them, dry a rabbit skin, stuff it with hay, and wrap it round with string, and when the pups are about three months old have similar skins thrown for them to retrieve. After a very few lessons they learn to do this, and enjoy the fun. Then kill a bird or two to them, letting them fetch it, which in nine cases out of ten they will do willingly, and with the greatest pleasure.

The work of breaking is quite simple. It is important that rabbits should not be killed to them before birds, or the dogs are apt to get hard mouthed. As a companion the Clumber is excellent; it is very rare indeed to find one with a bad temper, and there are few things indeed which he cannot be taught to do.

The Rev. W. Pearce ("Idstone") was as fond

of a Clumber spaniel as he was of a wavy-coated retriever and a Gordon setter, and when he wrote about twenty years ago, the chief Clumber owners were the Earl of Abingdon, Mr. James Morrell, the Marquis of Westminster, Earl Spencer, Mr. Holford, and the Maharajah Dhuleep Sing; at least, this was the somewhat incomplete list he published in his book on the dog. There are a few kennels of Clumbers at the present day, and, perhaps, all round, this dog is more common than ever, *i.e.*, it is to be found in greater numbers in fair perfection than at any previous time of our history.

So far as one can make out, I believe the principal kennels at this time, 1892, are dealt with in the succeeding pages. As a commencement, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, at Sandringham, has a number of handsome Clumbers that are first class workers, and there are promising puppies coming on. The failing in most of His Royal Highness's dogs is in their heads, they being narrow and deficient in massiveness. Suitably and successfully crossed with a dog or dogs excelling in head properties, probably, the Sandringham Clumbers would be about the best in existence. Mr. Foljambe, at Osberton Hall, near Worksop, has a fair team, the fault here being lightness in bone, and deficiency in head properties. This strain, perhaps,

excels all others for making an off-cross, and drafts from here are often on sale during the season at Aldridge's.

The Dukes of Portland, Newcastle, and Westminster own the kennels that are most popularly known, and, although they have not been kept up to date so far as appearance is concerned, greater pains, I believe, are now being taken to make an improvement in size, bone, and head properties, the latter being where almost all the strains fail. An exception, however, may be made to the dogs kept for many years by Mr. H. H. Holmes, of Lancaster. All his dogs are particularly good in head, and if they are wrong at all in this particular, they have an inclination to be too short, and so become rather sour in expression. These dogs are also excellent in colour and bone, indeed, as far as bench properties go, are the best of all, as the successes of his Tower, John o' Gaunt, Hotpot, and others will testify. This is an extremely valuable strain to use where the modern failing is so predominant.

Lord Derby's dogs have been alluded to. The Earl Spencer, at Althorp, Northamptonshire, and Lord Clinton Hope, at Deep Deenes, Surrey, have both excellent teams, the latter mostly of the strain obtained from Mr. J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, who

is, perhaps, the greatest modern enthusiast of all in the way of Clumbers, and when he shows them is usually in the prize list. His dogs are equally as good in the field.

As an instance of Mr. Hinck's enthusiasm it may be mentioned that at the recent sale of Mr. Holford's spaniels, at Aldridge's, the ten-year-old Brush II., a Birmingham first prize winner and a most typical Clumber, was put up for auction though feeble and quite worn out. Mr. Hincks purchased the poor old dog in order that it should have a peaceful home and be well cared for in its declining years. However, Brush did not survive its change of ownership many weeks.

Baron Rothschild also, I believe, uses Clumbers for beating his extensive coverts; and Mr. Allen, of Ampthill, has had some capital specimens, chiefly of the Duke of Portland's strain. Mr. J. H. McKenna, of Harpurhey, near Manchester, can show an excellent team, so can Mr. G. B. Clark, Bridgenorth; Messrs. Haylock and Barnard, Chelmsford; Mr. F. Parlett, near Chelmsford; Mr. Charles, Neath; the Rev. A. G. Brooke; Captain Maxwell, Dumfries; the Earl of Manners, Mr. V. Kitchingman, Slingsby, York; and Mr. Boaler (already mentioned), have all at one time or another owned and bred many excellent specimens.

To my mind the best three Clumbers of the early days of the show ring were Mr. H. P. Charles's Duke, who was by Foljambe's Bang—Mr. R. S. Holford's Trimbush, and the writer's Nabob, afterwards shown by Mr. P. Bullock and Mr. G. H. Oliver. Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price's Bruce, illustrated in "Stonehenge," stood too high on the legs and was too long in the head; but about this time, twenty years ago, many good dogs were being shown, mostly of the Foljambe strain, or at any rate said to be so. Of more modern dogs I take Mr. Holmes' John o' Gaunt, Mr. Hinck's Nora Friar; Chelmsford Clytie, bred by Messrs. Haylock and Barnard; the Duke of Portland's Fairy III. and Damper, and Mr. Parlett's Trust to be about the best. Psycho, who did a great deal of winning, was terribly weak in head, and Boss III., a champion, was also similarly wrong, and his loins were bad. However, I think, with a few enthusiasts at work in addition to those whose names have been mentioned, there may be an improved future for the Clumber spaniel.

A leading breeder of the variety says that the best dog for stud purposes he ever owned was one called Barney, which he purchased at one of the Birmingham shows. The dog, although not straight on his legs, bad in colour, and too fine in coat, proved extremely useful. In speaking of the same dog he said this

fine coat made him liable to a form of skin disease similar to mud fever in horses, and which was brought on by working. My experience is that the Clumber spaniel is more subject to disease of one kind and another than other dogs. Not many years ago there was an excellent bitch being shown, often winning, and usually catalogued to sell at an extremely low price. Bromine her name was, well bred, and when she was sold to go to America, I remarked to a friend who liked Clumbers, how foolish he was to allow such a good bitch to go out of the country. "You don't know as much about her as I do," replied the friend; "she cannot be kept in health, and is nearly always up to the eyes in mange." It need scarcely be said that she did not survive long amidst our American cousins.

Mr. Hincks tells me a little as to the doings of some of his Clumbers when at work. Of the dog Barney, already alluded to, he says: "I had him out one day with a young dog, Friar Jumbo. A covey of birds rose and crossed me from left to right in the corner of a field. I took the first bird, and as I pulled two others came in the line of fire. The bird aimed at dropped dead, whilst the other two were winged. Both dogs dropped to shot, and one of the wounded birds made for one fence and

the other for another fence. I took the two dogs and sent them in different directions; each returned with his bird, and not a feather ruffled.

Mr. Hincks mentions another excellent performance of one of his dogs, Friar Boss, which he had with him on a visit to Wales to look after cock, stray pheasants, and anything that could be found on a wild, rough shooting. There was a mixed team of dogs with the party, and the host expressed a great dislike to "show dogs" and to show Clumbers in particular. However, Boss's owner got the first three woodcocks over his dog, and the second day "the showman" did so well as to quite alter the opinion held by the lessee of the shooting. Boss bustled out an old cock pheasant, which made away over the top of a hedge, but was stopped just in the nick of time. The dog dropped to shot; Mr. Hincks lighted his pipe, then sent him for the bird. "Hi! what are you waiting for?" cried one of the party. "I have sent the dog for the bird," was the answer. "Bird be hanged; the dog is ranging away right at the end of the other field; come back," and Mr. Hincks got over the fence to see what was the matter. But instead of ranging wildly, Boss had his nose down, and speedily came back with the fluttering cock in his mouth, for it had been but winged, and had run the full length

of two fields. So after all "show dogs" may be of some use.

Thus much for the Clumber spaniel and his work, and all that is to be done for him now is to say that he is not a water dog, and give the Spaniel Club's description of him. This is as follows:

Positive Points.	
Head and jaw	20
Eyes	5
Ears	5
Neck	5
Body	15
Fore legs	5
Hind legs	5
Feet	5
Stern	5
Colour of markings	10
Coat and feather	10
General appearance	10
Total Positive Points	100

Negative Points.	
Curled Ears	10
Curled coat	20
Bad carriage of tail	10
Snipy face	15
Legginess	10
Light eyes	5
Total Negative Points	70

Descriptive Particulars.

Head.—Large, square, and massive, of medium length, broad on top, with a decided occiput; heavy brows with a deep stop; heavy freckled muzzle with well developed flew.

Eyes.—Dark amber, slightly sunk, and showing haw.

Ears.—Large, vine leaf-shaped, and well covered

with straight hair and hanging slightly forward, the feather not to extend below the leather.

Neck.—Very thick and powerful, and well feathered underneath.

Body (*including size and symmetry*).—Long and heavy, and near the ground.

Nose.—Square and flesh coloured.

Shoulders and Chest.—Wide and deep; shoulders strong and muscular.

Back and Loin.—Back straight, broad and long; loin, powerful, well let down in flank.

Hind Quarters.—Very powerful and well developed.

Stern.—Set low, well feathered, and carried about level with the back.

Feet and Legs.—Feet large and round, well covered with hair; legs short, thick, and strong; hocks low.

Coat.—Long, abundant, soft and straight.

Colour.—Plain white, with lemon markings; orange permissible but not desirable; slight head markings, with white body preferred.

General Appearance.—Should be that of a long, low, heavy, very massive dog, with a thoughtful expression.

Weight of dogs from 55lb. to 65lb.; bitches 45lb. to 55lb.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE SUSSEX SPANIEL.

A WELL-KNOWN authority on the dog, writing in 1802, says that some of the largest and strongest spaniels "are common in many parts of Sussex, and are called Sussex spaniels." Unfortunately, he does not tell us what colour they were or what colour they ought to be, still there is no doubt, from what I have been told, from what I have read, and from general gossip, that this spaniel was brown in colour, or, as that shade is usually called in application to the variety, "golden liver."

It somehow appears strange that, until within twenty-five years or so ago, this handsome and useful spaniel should have been allowed to languish in a quiet country place in its native county; bred by certain families, who valued it only for its working excellences, and, by a course of much in-breeding, rendered its extinction only a matter of time unless others came forward to strengthen the breed.

When "Stonehenge" wrote, in 1859, in "The Dog in Health and Disease," attention appears to

have been drawn particularly to the Sussex spaniel, and the outcome of that article of his was a mass of information on the subject that was extremely valuable. It was not, however, until much later —viz., in 1872—that a class was provided at any of our dog shows, that being at the Crystal Palace, when, I believe, Mr. J. A. Handy offered a special prize for them. The awards, however, did not appear to be satisfactory to those who knew the breed. They said that the leading honour ought to have gone to Mr. J. H. Salter's Chance, who came second to Captain Arbuthnot's Dash, an ordinary field spaniel with none of the true character about him, third to a dog bred from at any rate one black parent, Mr. Bullock's George. However, if the awards were wrong—and it was neither the first nor the last time that they have been so—Sussex spaniels obtained such a fillip that they have not looked behind them since.

The pure Rosehill strain was the most fancied, and into Sussex all the "show men," with Mr. Bowers in command, ran to see if they could buy up the plums that remained in the neighbourhood. Some few were found, but the owners knew their value as purely sporting dogs, and were loth to part with them at anything else than "sporting" figures, this word, however, used in quite a different sense—

an opposite one in fact, and "fancy figures" might be better.

For over fifty years Mr. Fuller, at Rosehill Hall, Brightling, near Hastings, had perhaps the leading strain, but, although some of it remains, mostly in the kennels of Mr. Campbell Newington, at Ridgeway, Ticehurst, Sussex, and in those of Mr. Moses Woolland, William-street, Lowndes-square, London, and Mr. J. H. Salter, at Tolleshunt d'Arcy, we fancy none are quite free from a strange cross.

Mr. Fuller kept his spaniels for the purpose of beating the large woods and plantations in the vicinity of Brightling and Heathfield. He was a good sportsman of the old school, one perhaps better satisfied when killing his eight or ten brace of wild pheasants a day over dogs, than the modern shooter is with more than fifteen times that number of hand-fed birds brought to book by the aid of human beaters. Not that I have any wish to decry the "big days" in covert we all so much enjoy, nor for one moment run down the skill of the man who can kill a score of rocketers without more than two or three misses.

On the death of Mr. Fuller, which occurred so far back as 1847, Mrs. Fuller allowed Relf, the head keeper, to select two of the best spaniels in the kennel; the remainder were for a time used by the

new tenant of the shooting, but eventually sold, and realised high prices. There were seven of them so disposed of, but it was from the dog and bitch selected by Relf, named respectively George and Romp, that the strain, as far as it goes, survives at the present time.

It has been stated that the original strain from Rosehill was lost through an outbreak of rabies in the kennels necessitating entire destruction of the spaniels. This was not the case. Many years before Mr. Fuller's death, there was such an outbreak amongst the hounds—southern hounds they were. These were destroyed, and with them some of the spaniels, but by no means the whole of the latter.

In addition to the Rosehill strain, Dr. Williams, of Hayward's Heath, had some excellent Sussex spaniels, so had Mr. Farmer at Cowfold, but it is more than ten years since the first named wrote that he had not a single specimen in his kennel, and did not know where to find any of the pure breed. However, thanks to such gentlemen as I have named, and the trouble they have taken to retain what blood remained, the complete extinction of the pure Sussex spaniel is now improbable.

Some fourteen years ago the best bred dogs were Mr. Newington's Laurie, born in 1877, and which came to an untimely end by swallowing a cork; Mr.

Salter's Chloe, Mr. Egerton's George, and Mr. Hudson's Battle.

Peggie, the dam of Bachelor, who did a great deal of winning in his day, had a considerable strain of water spaniel blood in her, and so the descendants of that bitch, handsome though she was, cannot be deemed as pure as they might be, still, with slight exception, Bachelor was about as pure as any at that time, and it is from his strain that the various colours which now and then appear are produced. It was rather unfortunate that Mr. Bullock's George, one of the illustrations of the Sussex spaniels published in the *Field* in 1872, was by his dog Bob, one of the best of the black variety ever benched. So here again are so called Sussex descended from him, and his strain cannot be considered the genuine article. But, as already stated, none are entirely pure, and, so far as I can make out, the dog Laurie, already alluded to, was about as free from black in the strain as any, he being by Hudson's Dash out of his Romp, the latter with a sire and dam pure Rosehill, and Dash was by Mr. Curtiss' Bob—Mr. Watt's Dash, both pure in their way.

I cannot find any others of the best looking and most typical dogs that do not on one side or the other go back to Bachelor. Still with no more wrong

blood than he possessed, and this cropping up many generations afterwards, there is not much harm done, and those who take the trouble to reproduce the true thing have every opportunity of doing so, especially where they take pains to keep off any sire or dam that excels in the length of the ears.

The distinguishing feature in the Sussex spaniel is the golden liver colour, and without which no dog should receive a prize. How this was originally obtained it is difficult to say, but Relf, the favourite old keeper at the Rosehill kennels, who died five years ago, aged eighty-five, said that every now and then they obtained amongst their puppies one of a "sandy" colour. This sandy specimen, I have since heard, only came in from a bitch that was mated with a dog belonging to Dr. Watts, of Battle. This conveys the impression that this strain, some time or other, had (and I am writing of what occurred as far back as fifty years since), a "sandy" coloured or yellow dog or bitch in it, and these lighter-shaded puppies bred back to that time. This is a remarkable fact, because a sandy colour bred to liver colour would be likely enough to produce that lovely golden tinge that is so desirable at the present time, and has been so for very many years. It need scarcely be said that the "sandy" puppies were usually destroyed by the old keeper, to

whom we must be in a great measure indebted for the Sussex spaniel as he is to-day in his purity.

In the modern specimens there is a tendency to get the coats too fine, such of course being to the advantage of the dogs when before the judges, but very much against them for work. A good dog ought to have a hardish coat, dense underneath, perfectly straight, and one that would allow a willing dog (and the strain is willing enough) to work in the thickest covert of briars and brambles.

Then another peculiarity in the Sussex spaniel lies in his ears. These ought not to be too long, small, or narrow where they are set on (which should be low), but larger or "lobe shaped" towards the base, all nicely coated with straight silky hair, quite free from fringe at the tips. Perhaps one of the most typical of her race we have seen was Mr. T. B. Bower's Maud, born in 1871. She was bred by Mr. Saxby, and said to be pure Rosehill on the sides of both her sire and dam. She was, however, somewhat finer in coat, and had not quite so workmanlike an appearance as might have been desirable. Those handsome dogs, the Bebbs (there was a whole family of them), that did no end of winning on the show bench twenty years ago, were not Sussex at all. Old Bebb, Mr. Burgess's, originally came from Lord Derby's kennels, and proved such a

useful sire that he could produce browns, blacks, and other colours from the same dam.

The late Mr. J. A. Handy, who was a great authority on the breed, persisted that another most important item was that the feather on either the front or hind legs "should not extend down to the toes. It should stand out straight from the back of the legs without that fluffy Cochin-China-like appearance considered by many persons a desideratum in a prize spaniel—indeed, the hind legs from the hock downwards should not be feathered at all." I give the above opinion for what it is worth, but the dogs that we see on the benches have, when in coat, certainly more feather on the legs than Mr. Handy indicates, though what they might be in full work and beating the coverts five days in the week is another question. The "show feather" would soon disappear.

As a worker the Sussex spaniel is second to none. He is hardy, busy, reliable, and has no preference to hunt one kind of game before another—*i.e.*, he will not leave fur for feather nor feather for fur, though perhaps of the two he would prefer "feather." There is no better dog than he for beating out the thick covert when the cocks have arrived and the pheasants are chary of taking wing. He works closely, intelligently, and will not leave a bit of

covert untried; he is a faster and merrier worker than the Clumber, and will go on quite as long. He is not mute, though not a noisy dog by any means; a slight yelp or whimper every now and then, when on a hot scent, which becomes more of a round full bark when close to his game or when it is in sight. Of course, some dogs may be more excitable than others, but what I call a very noisy spaniel is quite out of place, for it often enough leads the shooter to believe it has game in front of its nose when such is far away, and perhaps never comes within distance to afford a shot. He readily retrieves, is tender-mouthed, and makes by no means a bad single-handed dog where a pointer or setter will not do. As a water dog he is excellent when properly trained for the purpose.

In a great measure the present popularity of the pure Sussex spaniel is due to what Mr. T. B. Bowers, who lived near Chester, did for it some twenty-five years ago. He was energetic in defining the type, got to the right strains, and protested against the award of prizes to brown dogs that had sprung from black parents, and had little or no Sussex blood in them. This he did so successfully that a well-known liver-coloured dog called George, a great winner in Sussex classes and mentioned earlier on, was withdrawn from competi-

tion because his sire and dam were both black. Following him, no one has had so many good specimens as are to be found in the possession of Mr. Moses Woolland and Mr. Campbell Newington at the present time, and the competition at our shows is usually restricted to representatives from those kennels, unless Mr. Salter sends an entry or two. At the Crystal Palace show in the autumn of 1892, and at Birmingham a few months later, Mr. Newington showed an excellent dog, called Rosehill Ruler II., which his owner states contains perhaps more of the real Rosehill blood than any other dog before the public. The colour of the dog was very choice, in his coat there was little to be desired in the way of improvement, and with these qualities he had the modern fancy point of extraordinary length. This dog easily won the first prize in its class at the one show, and ought to have done so at the other, but a brace of Mr. Woolland's, Maubert II. and Leopold, were placed over him.

The teams Mr. Woolland sometimes wins with are about perfect in form and shape, not too long nor too low, sometimes not too big in the ears; but their jackets are usually rather silky, which no doubt arises from the fact of their being specially groomed for show ring purposes. His Bridford Battle, dam of the beautiful bitch Bridford Naomi,

was own sister to Mr. Newington's good bitch, Countess of Rosehill, and so the two leading kennels have blood in common. Attention, however, to the production of show points by extreme care and skilfulness has mainly brought the London dogs to the front, though, perhaps, if it came to a matter of work, the Ticehurst kennel might prevail. Both are good, and Mr. Salter is only beaten by either because he has given his attention more to other varieties than to the Sussex spaniels.

The weight of the Sussex spaniel should not be more than 50lb. for a dog, and from 40lb. to 45lb. for a bitch.

The following are the Club's scale of points, and their latest description of the Sussex spaniel:

Positive Points.		Negative Points.	
Head	10	Light eyes	5
Eyes	5	Narrow head	10
Nose	5	Weak muzzle	10
Ears	10	Curled ears or high set on	5
Neck	5	Curled coat	15
Chest and shoulders	5	Carriage of stern	5
Back and back ribs	10	Top-knot	10
Legs and feet	10	White on chest	5
Tail	5	Colour (too light or too dark)	15
Coat	5	Legginess or light of bone	5
Colour	15	Shortness of body or flat sided	5
General appearance	15	General appearance, sour or crouching	10
Total Positive Points ...	100	Total Negative Points ...	100

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

"*Head.*—The skull should be moderately long, and also wide, with an indentation in the middle and a full stop, brows fairly heavy; occiput full, but not pointed, the whole giving an appearance of heaviness without dulness.

"*Eyes.*—Hazel colour, fairly large, soft and languishing, not shewing the haw overmuch.

"*Nose.*—The muzzle should be about three inches long, square, and the lips somewhat pendulous. The nostrils well developed and liver colour.

"*Ears.*—Thick, fairly large, and lobe shaped; set moderately low, but relatively not so low as in the black field spaniel; carried close to the head, and furnished with soft, wavy hair.

"*Neck.*—Is rather short, strong, and slightly arched, but not carrying the head much above the level of the back. There should not be much throatiness in the skin, but well marked frill in the coat.

"*Chest and Shoulders.*—The chest is round, especially behind the shoulders, deep and wide, giving a good girth. The shoulders should be oblique.

"*Back and Back Ribs.*—The back and loin is long, and should be very muscular, both in width and

depth; for this development the back ribs must be deep. The whole body is characterised as low, long, level, and strong.

"*Legs and Feet.*—The arms and thighs must be bony, as well as muscular, knees and hocks large and strong, pasterns very short and bony, feet large and round, and with short hair between the toes. The legs should be very short and strong, with great bone, and may show a slight bend in the forearm, and be moderately well feathered. The hind-legs should not be apparently shorter than the fore-legs, or be too much bent at the hocks, so as to give a settery appearance, which is so objectionable. The hind-legs should be well feathered above the hocks, but should not have much hair below this point. The hocks should be short and wide apart.

"*Tail.*—Should be docked from five to seven inches, set low, and not carried above the level of the back, thickly clothed with moderately long feather.

"*Coat.*—Body coat abundant, flat or slightly waved, with no tendency to curl; moderately well feathered on legs and stern, but clean below the hocks.

"*Colour.*—Rich golden liver; this is a certain sign of the purity of the breed, dark liver or puce

denoting unmistakeably a recent cross with the Black or other variety of Field Spaniel.

"*General appearance.* — Rather massive and muscular, but with free movements and nice tail action, denoting a tractable and cheerful disposition. Weight from 35lb. to 45lb."

It will be seen from the above Club standard that a somewhat lighter weight is allowed than is alluded to in my description. However, I must say that I have not yet, so far as I am aware, seen a good specimen of the pure Sussex spaniel so small as 35lb., and, on the contrary, some of the most perfect dogs I have met must have closely approached 50lb. Most admirers of the breed will probably prefer my weights to those suggested by the Club.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE BLACK FIELD SPANIEL.

If the black spaniel, as seen at our modern shows, can be taken as a distinct variety—and I think that it can—we must consider him as a comparatively recent introduction. None of the old writers mention him, nor have old artists drawn him. It may be safely said that he is bred for show purposes alone—his sleek, silken coat, glossy and bright even as the sheen on the raven's wing, making him a most attractive creature as an ornament. For actual hard work and use in the field he has many superiors. As a fact, such dogs as gain the chief prizes on our show benches are kept for that purpose alone. They are brushed and groomed methodically and with as much regularity as a maiden will attend to her own toilet. A ramble in the rain, or a gallop in the fields, a scurry after the rabbits in the covert, are not the part and parcel of the education of the black spaniel, at any rate during that time of life he is in his prime, when mooning and

sleeping away the dreary hours on the show benches.

Of late years so much attention has been given these black spaniels that there are men who have actually attained a form of celebrity on account of the skill they display in obtaining a perfectly flat coat and a shining one. This a good specimen must have. Then his ears cannot be too long, well clothed with hair and fringed at the tips; his head, too, may be an exaggeration, long, with not the most peculiarly pleasing spaniel expression and eye that one would like to see. Some of our heavier black spaniels have enormous heads, square and untypical, with eyes displaying a haw that would not be out of place in a bloodhound. I need scarcely say that when dogs of this kind are given prizes, the judges who make such awards are wrong.

Length of body, shortness of leg, and enormous bone are again produced to an exaggeration; crooked forelegs have followed, and the black spaniel, once perhaps a useful and active animal, has now fallen into the heavy, slow ranks of the Clumber, but by no means so interesting a creature, and may be taken as a sound example of what can be done in the matter of breeding "for show points."

Now, I have always taken my line as to what a black spaniel should be from that simply charming

bitch, Nellie, Mr. P. Bullock used to show when he resided near Bilston. Afterwards she passed into the hands of Captain Arbuthnot, of Montrose. Nellie was simply perfect in her line, sweet in expression, lovely in size and hang of ears, straight in coat (not so flat as that of to-day), active and smart, not too heavy in bone, short on leg, or long in back, and, from her appearance, would have been a lovely bitch to shoot over. Her weight I would take to be about 35lb. She was by Young Bob out of Flirt, and, through the latter, went back to Mr. F. Burdett's old strain, which, indeed, is found more or less in all the best spaniel blood of to-day.

Mr. Burdett had been the secretary of the earlier Birmingham shows, and his spaniels, which seldom went over about 30lb. weight or so, he had originally from a Mr. Footman, who lived near Lutterworth in Leicestershire. After the death of Mr. Burdett, the strain went into the hands of Mr. Jones, of Oscott, Mr. P. Bullock, and others, and that it proved extremely valuable the stud books attest. It crossed well into other strains of whatever colour, and from them our field spaniels are what they are now, excepting that the real Sussex has been kept as free from the black blood as possible.

Following Messrs. Burdett, Bullock, and others, came Mr. H. B. Spurgin, of Northampton; Mr. W.

Gillett, of Hull; Dr. W. W. Boulton, of Beverley, who all took great pains to sustain the excellence of the black spaniel, and even to improve its appearance. That they did the latter I scarcely believe, and such dogs as Nellie, already mentioned, Old Bob and Flirt, her kennel companions, have, at any rate, never been excelled, maybe never equalled.

With an increase in the weight of the dog, crooked legs began to prevail, and they in time became so common as to be overlooked by the judges, and a dog called Beverlac, though very bad in this particular, in his day won no end of prizes; he was about 54lb. in weight, and thus too big.

More recently Mr. T. Jacobs, of Newton Abbot, began to put in an appearance at our dog shows, and proved so successful at Birmingham and elsewhere as to almost take all the prizes on several occasions, and sold some of his dogs for enormous sums. One bitch went to Mr. M. Woolland for £250; this was Bridford Perfection, whose sire and dam had both been bred by Mr. Jacobs. She was of great length and lowness on her legs; her head was very good indeed, but personally I never liked her shoulders. Some judges pronounced her the best spaniel ever bred, and at the time I am writing this, although often brought out at the best shows, she has not been beaten.

Mr. Jacobs made no secret of his strain, which were always well grown and healthy, in the prime of condition, a fact which he attributed to feeding his favourites on nothing but flesh. I fancy that fresh air and exercise had more to do with this good growth and bright coat than the actual diet. He also tells me that he does not believe in there being at any time any distinct colour variety of spaniels.

Mr. Jacobs had been breeding spaniels for some years before he showed them, and the first black specimen he had was as far back as 1874. This dog, Nigger, was by Mr. Bullock's Palm, from his Flirt, and the foundation of this most successful kennel was laid from this dog and a team of four bitches obtained from the late Mr. S. Lang. The best of them were by Rolf out of Belle, the former from the strain that Dr. Boulton had.

However, not contented with these good spaniels of pure blood, Mr. Jacobs went further afield, and the well-known liver-coloured dog Bachelor became his at the same time that he obtained a Sussex bitch called Russet from the Rev. W. Shield; and from this stock the Newton Abbot kennels must have produced hundreds of winners of all colours, for the great part heavy and medium-sized dogs. The sale of Bridford Perfection has already been noted, and the last dozen dogs Mr. Jacobs sold realised £1500,

so spaniel breeding with judgment must have proved a profitable enterprise. With this great sale—a private one—Mr. Jacobs gave up exhibiting, and, indeed, his kennel was then broken up, still its plums may be found in the possession of Mr Woolland, already alluded to, and of Captain Moreton Thomas.

Of course, Mr. Jacobs had bred and mated his dogs and bitches carefully, and succeeded in producing spaniels longer in the body, lower on the leg, and with greater bone than any of his predecessors had done, and, had he kept his strain more to himself, there is no doubt as a spaniel breeder he would have taken a higher position even than the one he did attain.

Of course, as would be inferred from his original stock, his purest black bitches and black dogs never yet had a litter that wholly took after their parents. Browns or livers, brown and white, black and tan, black, black and white, even the handsome mirl or roan colours at times appeared. However, with judicious mating, and ordinary care, it is quite possible, with the material at command, to, at any rate in a few years, bring the breeding for colour as near perfection as possible.

Mr. J. F. Farrow, of the Fountains, Ipswich, has a strain of admirable "blacks" which produce a

fairly distinct type, and his dogs Buckle and Gipping Sam are exceedingly good specimens, and, with Mr. J. Smith's (Coleshill) Nebo, equally handsome, are not so abnormally short on the leg and heavy in body as to prevent them being useful sporting dogs should occasion require them or their strain to become so.

Mr. T. Marples, Reddish, near Stockport, has lately shown some exceedingly fine black spaniels of the show strain, his Moonstone excelling in length and other modern attributes, and being undoubtedly a very high class dog. Mr. Moreton Thomas, Hatherleigh, N. Devon, has a capital kennel. Mr. R. Pratt, Bradford, Yorks; Mr. R. Comber, Beverley; Mr. C. Lawrence, Chesterton, Cambridge; Mr. R. C. Howarth, Hindley, near Wigan; Mr. Kitchingman, near York; Mr. F. E. Schofield, Alnwick; Mr. H. B. Spurgin, Northampton, and others, have, at one time and another exhibited charming specimens of the black spaniel, which its admirers are not far wrong in calling the most popular spaniel of the day. If high prices make a dog popular no one can deny this opinion, for a hundred pounds and more will be given for a good specimen where an equally good Clumber would not fetch more than half that sum, nor a Sussex or a black and tan either.

The Club's description and points of the black spaniel are as follows:

Positive Points.		Negative Points.	
Head and jaw	15	Light eyes	20
Eyes	5	Light nose	15
Ears	5	Curled ears	10
Neck	5	Curled coat	10
Body	10	Carriage of back	10
Fore-legs	10	Bad top-knot	15
Hind-legs	10	White on chest	10
Feet	10	Crooked forelegs	10
Stern	10		
Coat and Feather	10		
General Appearance	10		
Total Positive Points	100	Total Negative Points	100

Descriptive Particulars.

"*Head.*—Should be quite characteristic of this grand sporting dog, as is that of the bloodhound or bulldog, its very stamp and countenance should at once convey the conviction of high breeding, character, and nobility; skull well developed, with a distinctly elevated occipital tuberosity, which, above all, gives the character alluded to; not too wide across muzzle, long and lean, never snipy nor squarely cut, and, in profile, curving gradually from nose to throat; lean beneath eyes—a thickness here gives coarseness to the whole head. The great length of muzzle gives surface for the free

development of the olfactory nerve, and thus secures the highest possible scenting powers.

"*Eyes.*—Not too full, but not small, receding, or overhung; colour, dark hazel or dark brown, or nearly black; grave in expression, and bespeaking unusual docility and instinct.

"*Ears.*—Set low down as possible, which greatly adds to the refinement and beauty of the whole head; moderately long and wide, and sufficiently clad with nice setter-like feather.

"*Neck.*—Very strong and muscular, so as to enable the dog to retrieve his game without undue fatigue; not too short, however.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Long and very low, well ribbed up to a good strong loin, straight or slightly arched, never slack; weight from about 35lb. to 45lb.

"*Nose.*—Well developed, with good open nostrils, and always black in colour.

"*Shoulders and Chest.*—Former sloping and free—latter deep and well developed, but not too round and wide.

"*Back and Loin.*—Very strong and muscular; level, and long in proportion to the height of the dog.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Very powerful and muscular; wide, and fully developed.

"*Stern.*—Well set on, and carried low, if possible

below the level of the back, in a perfectly straight line, or with a slight downward inclination; never elevated above the back, and in action always kept low; nicely fringed, with wavy feather of silky texture.

Feet and Legs.—Feet not too small and well protected between the toes with soft feather; good strong pads. Legs straight and immensely boned, strong and short, and nicely feathered with flat or waved setter-like feather. Over-much feathering below hocks objectionable.

"*Coat.*—Flat or slightly waved, and never curled—sufficiently dense to resist the weather, and not too short—silky in texture, glossy and refined in nature, with neither duffelness on the one hand nor curl or wireness on the other; on chest, under belly, and behind the legs there should be abundant feather, but never too much, and that of the right sort, namely, setter-like. The tail and hind quarters should be similarly adorned.

"*Colour.*—Jet black throughout, glossy and true. A little white on chest, though a drawback, not a disqualification.

General Appearance.—That of a sporting dog, capable of learning and doing anything possible for his inches and conformation. A grand combination of beauty and utility.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE NORFOLK SPANIEL.

I AM somewhat at a loss to know why the ordinary liver and white spaniel came to be distinguished by the Spaniel Club as the Norfolk spaniel (the Club description, appended, says it may be black and white), for surely it is quite as common a commodity in any county in England as it has ever been in that from which it is supposed to have derived its name. Some say it was used there to assist the shooters on the Broads, but a similar dog has from time out of mind been used by shooters in other parts of the country. Personally, I do not consider the liver and white spaniel any particular variety at all, nor that it has ever been indigenous to Norfolk. Devonshire, for instance, has attained a celebrity for hardy spaniels that had to work in the rough country with which the county of lanes abounds, and do their work well. Many of these were liver and white in colour, others black and white. They never came from Norfolk, nor did the

Devonshire men ever claim them as a distinct variety.

Youatt, writing in 1845, says the breed was first brought into note by the late Duke of Norfolk, who was supposed to have produced them by crossing with a black and tan terrier and a springer, the latter an ordinary spaniel. This, however, is not at all likely to be correct, for, long prior to that time, brown and white spaniels were found. Indeed, I fancy that was the prevailing spaniel colour. Far more likely the so-called Norfolk spaniel was produced originally by a cross between a curly-coated water spaniel and one of the ordinary Sussex or other breed.

Now, liver and white spaniels, almost infinite in shape and size, may be seen running about the streets in any country place. The sporting shopkeeper considers him the best shooting dog; and so he may be when properly trained—for he is a leggier, closer and better coated animal than the ordinary spaniel we see when standing at the ring side. He will retrieve well from both land and water, work a hedgerow or thick covert, and indeed do anything that is the special work of a spaniel.

Some of these liver and white spaniels are comparatively mute, whilst others are terribly noisy—yelping and giving tongue when hunting, almost as freely as a hound. Still, the chances are that the

rustic sportsman who keeps but one dog, and has not accommodation for more, prefers a liver and white spaniel, be it Norfolk or otherwise, and, as a rule, if he be not addicted to poaching, prefers it to make a noise when rabbiting in the dense gorse coverts.

The Club points and description are as follows:

Positive Points.		Negative Points.	
Head, jaw, and eyes	20	Carriage of stern	5
Ears	10	Top-knot	5
Neck	10		
Body	10		
Fore-legs	10		
Hind-legs	10		
Feet	5		
Stern	5		
Coat and feather	10		
General appearance	10		
Total positive points ...	100	Total negative points ...	10

Descriptive Particulars.

"*Head.*—Skull long and rather narrow; a stop; the muzzle long and broad to the end.

"*Eyes.*—Rather small, bright, and intelligent.

"*Neck.*—Long, strong, slightly arched.

"*Ears.*—Long, low set, and lobular.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Fairly heavy body; legs rather longer than in other field

spaniels, but not so long as in Irish. Medium size.

"*Nose.*—Large and soft.

"*Shoulders and Chest.*—Shoulders long and sloping; chest deep and fairly broad.

"*Back and Loin.*—Back flat and strong; loin rather long, flat, and strong.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Long; hocks well let down; stifles moderately bent, and not twisted inwards nor outwards.

"*Stern.*—Docked; low carried, *i.e.*, not above the level of the back.

"*Feet and legs.*—Strong boned legs, inclining to shortness; feet large and rather flat.

"*Coat.*—Hard, not woolly; not curly, but may be broken.

"*Colour.*—Liver and white and black and white.

"*General Appearance.*—An active, useful, medium-sized dog."

CHAPTER XXVI.

SPANIELS OTHER THAN BLACK.

AS CLASSES are provided for "Field Spaniels other than black" (not being Clumbers, Sussex, or cockers), and as such are entered in the Stud Books, allusion must be made to them here. Their varied colouring gives them a hardier appearance than is observable in the blacks; their coats are often crisper and denser, or maybe they appear to be so in the absence of the raven gloss. It must not be forgotten that they spring from the same strain as the black variety.

The most common colours are black and tan; black and white ticked; brown, grey, and white approaching a roan; liver and white; black, tan, and white, and any variations that may appear therein. Orange and white are seldom seen, and when this colour does crop up, it is a sign of a not very remote cross with the setter or the Clumber spaniel.

In respect to general shape and character they

are in common with the black, though, excepting in the case of the black and tan, the haw, to which exception is taken, is seldom seen. The handsomest colours are the roans, black, tan and white, and the black and white ticked, and the latter is exactly the same colour as the early spaniels drawn for Aldrovandus, who wrote of them as "pantherius" three hundred and fifty years ago. So, however shape and type may have altered, the colour does not appear to have changed to any very great extent.

The liver and white variety has somehow or other become identified with the county of Norfolk, and is usually known as the Norfolk spaniel, and dealt with on preceding pages.

He is, however, common to all parts of the country where such dogs are used for work, and will retrieve, hunt the day out and through, and is not excelled by any of his race as thoroughly a sportsman's dog. Some of the very best rabbiting spaniels I have ever seen were liver and white, and the only fault that could be found with them was more than a tendency to be hard in the mouth. Not an uncommon fault where a dog is employed almost entirely among rabbits, retrieving twenty or thirty couple a day, some of them struggling hard in the mouth and scratching him with their feet.

The best kind of liver and white spaniel for work is usually rather high on the legs, about 40lb. in weight, perhaps inclined to be curly in coat; at any rate, not nearly so straight-jacketed as the show specimens. There is no fear of his dying out, for almost every country village can boast these brown and white dogs; the gamekeeper treasures them, and, if they do not receive their due in the show ring, they are sufficiently honoured elsewhere — their character in the field being of the highest.

I noticed a short time ago a very handsome strain of this race kept by Sir Thomas Boughey, at Aquilate, near Wellington, Salop. The coats of these had no tendency to curl; their character at work was excellent, and the specimens I saw appeared to be remarkably good tempered, well broken, not inclined to run riot, and only hunting when ordered to do so. On inquiry I learned that this particular breed had been in the family for many years, and was likely to remain so in the future.

About twenty-four years ago Mr. Burgess, of Brighouse, Yorkshire, showed a couple of liver and white spaniels with great success, Sam and Flora by name. Bred by Mr. Hopcroft, of Nottingham, at that time they were said to be Sussex spaniels, but, although their breeder tried to maintain their

reputation as such, it was pretty certain that they had no claim to be of that race. Mr. Hopcroft had the strain for some time, and valued it exceedingly. Sam and Flora were brother and sister, of nice character, but, though they won all before them in their time, they were much higher on the leg than bench winners of to-day; they, however, excelled in length of ears.

There are extant some capital chromo-lithographs of these two celebrated dogs, and the blood of both of them is still to be found in many of the best specimens at the present time.

Mr. H. P. Green, at Caistor Hall, near Norwich, has a strain of black, tan, and white spaniels, which he values highly. Personally, I never saw any dogs that took my fancy more than they did when I first saw them on the show bench. A little over 40lb. weight or so, they abound in character, are long in ears, fairly straight in coat, and strong in bone; still, handsome though they be, they are more valued for work than beauty, though they have earned distinction on the show bench. Their owner tells me he has had the strain for over a dozen years, commencing with a bitch obtained from the late Sir Richard Wallace, which was mated with a tricoloured dog. Both were excellent in the field, and appeared to have transferred their good qualities

to their progeny. The strain is easily trained, possesses great sense, plenty of dash and go, and can stand the hardest work without ill effect. Mr. Green uses them as retrievers in Scotland amongst the grouse, much to the admiration of some of the old Highland sportsmen. These spaniels are also excellent dogs for snipe, duck, and mixed shooting of all kinds; they cannot be excelled as water dogs, and I am certain that animals so handsome and so good are well worth cultivating.

The Club descriptive particulars of any other variety of field spaniel are as follows, the points being similar to those adopted for the black variety, excepting, of course, as to colour:

"*Head.*—Similar to that of the black spaniel, save in colour.

"*Eyes.*—The colour in all cases to match the coat and markings, viz.: Black and Tans—hazel or brown; Liver and Tans—rather lighter than in black and tans, but of good rich tone; Livers—light hazel colour; Black Tan and White Roans, &c., &c.—somewhat similar to liver and tans; Liver and Tan Roans, &c.—Somewhat similar to liver and tans.

"*Ears.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel, except in colour.

"*Neck.*—Similar to that of the black spaniel.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Similar to that of the black spaniel.

"*Nose.*—Variable, according to colour of coat and markings: Black and Tans—black; Liver and Tans—dark liver colour; Livers—liver; Black and Tan and White Roans—black; Liver and Tan Roans—liver.

"*Shoulders and Chest.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Back and Loin.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Stern.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Feet and Legs.*—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Coat.*—Similar in quality, substance, and texture, and in all other respects, except colour, responding to that given for black spaniels.

"*Colours.*—Various, such as black and tan, liver and tan, liver, black, tan, and white roans; liver, tan, and white roans, &c.

General Appearance. — Similar in all respects, except in regard to colour and markings; identical with the general description given before for black spaniels.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE COCKER.

THIS, the smallest of our race of sporting spaniels, is retrograding rather than progressing, and, hardy, cheerful little dog though he be, sportsmen have found that a bigger dog can do his duties better, even to working rough covert, and it is not a general thing for a cocker to retrieve a rabbit or a hare. Indeed, some cockers I have had would not retrieve at all, nor did I blame them, for retrieving is a duty to be performed by a more powerful dog.

The prizes offered for the cocker on the show bench are not of particular value, nor do they carry sufficient honour, to make it worth the while of any one breeding him for such purpose alone, so, as a matter of fact, this once favoured little dog is not growing with the times in the manner a successful concern ought to be. Only the larger exhibitions give him classes of his own, and the prizes then do not, as a rule, go to the genuine article.

The cocker of the olden time I should take to be

the connecting link between the working and the toy spaniels. We have been told that the Blenheims at Marlborough House were excellent dogs to work the coverts for cock and pheasant, and, excepting in colour, there is in reality not much difference in appearance between the older orange and white toys (not as they are to day, with their abnormally short noses) and the liver and white cockers H. B. Chalon drew for Daniel's "Rural Sports" in 1801.

Two of Chalon's little spaniels have just sprung a woodcock, and charming specimens they are, not too low on the leg, nor over-done in the matter of ears, but sprightly little dogs, evidently under 20lb. weight, and of a type we do not find to-day. Many of us lament the growing scarcity of this variety as he was to be found fifty years ago and more. Modern breeders tell us they have provided us with a better and handsomer animal. It is an open question whether they have done the former, I acknowledge they have done the latter.

Some few years ago I became the possessor of a brace of black cockers, the most beautiful little spaniels imaginable. How they were bred I am not aware. This I do know, that wherever they went they were admired more than any other dogs; not in the show ring—they never appeared there—but in the streets and the country generally. At that time

I was shooting a good deal, and had ample opportunity of entering them to game of every kind. As sporting dogs they were comparatively useless; for they were noisy, headstrong, not at all careful, and would pass half a dozen rabbits or pheasants whilst they were putting up three or four. My terriers could beat their heads off, and a cross-bred spaniel I had at that time could have outworked a big team of them.

Of course, this must not be taken as an inference that all these modern, extremely pretty black cockers are equally useless; but, from others that I have seen at work, I did not take mine to have been an especially unfortunate brace. The coats of some of them are not adapted to protect the hide of the dog from being pierced by those sharp thorns and prickly brambles that are to be found in every ordinary covert.

Some portions of Wales and Devonshire have produced the old working type of cocker, mostly liver and white in colour, higher on the leg than an ordinary field spaniel, not so long in ears, with a close coat, not too fine, usually inclining to be wavy and curly on the hind quarters, and a head finer in the muzzle than the ordinary spaniel would seem to possess, and with a character of its own.

About twenty years ago Dr. Boulton was exhibit-

ing his Rhea, a black specimen which won a great many prizes. She, however, had little or no strain of the cocker in her, and what excellence she possessed was imparted from the same blood that ran in the pedigree of Bullock's Nellie and other celebrities of her day.

Perhaps the best class of cockers I have ever seen was benched at Manchester in 1892. There were fourteen of them, in many types; but amongst them specimens of both the old and modern style. Mr. H. J. Price, of Long Ditton, had an excellent team, his Ditton Brevity and Gaiety being particularly excellent—the one a blue and white, the other a tricolour. Mr. Carew-Gibson, of Fareham, in Grove Rose and Merry Belle, had a brace of beauties, also of the old type, and his first named won chief prize; but other leading honours of third and reserve were given to miniature modern spaniels, both black, but certainly not like Rose and Brevity, that took first and second honours. Mr. Phillips' Rivington Merry Legs was another of the pure strain, a black and white, that, I believe, came from Exeter.

I have particularly drawn attention to this class at Manchester in proof, if such were needed, that there still remains material in the country to popularise the old-fashioned breed of cocker, and I fancy this

would soon be done would judges, in making their awards, stick to one type and throw out those dogs that showed unusually heavy bone, long bodies, heavy heads, and over-sized ears. And I may go further than this, and say that I never yet saw a good and perfectly characteristic cocker that had a flat coat, was entirely black, or of that bright liver colour found in the Sussex. The correct colours are either mixed or a dull brown, the latter with white on the chest and often enough white feet to match.

Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich, owns an excellent strain of small black spaniels, which one or two of his are of the cocker type I approve. Some of them are miniature specimens of the black field spaniel and from which they are bred. Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Phillips, and one or two others, exhibit similar black specimens, but none of them excel those that appear from the Ipswich kennels.

In weight the cocker ought not to exceed 25lb. at the very most, and bitches of 20lb. or less are the desirable size. As I have already hinted, they should not be so high on the leg, so long in the body, so heavy in the ears, or so heavy in the muzzle as an ordinary field spaniel, and may be taken as sharp, active little creatures, always busy when at work, and specially smart in driving rabbits from a gorse covert or other rough place.

The following is the Club's scale for judging black cocker spaniels:

Positive Points.		Negative Points.	
Head and jaw	10	Light eyes (undesirable, but not fatal)	10
Eyes	5	Light nose (fatal)	15
Ears	5	Curled ears (very undesirable)	15
Neck	5	Curled coat (curly, woolly, or wiry)	20
Body	15	Carriage of stern (crooked or twisted)	20
Fore-legs	10	Top-knot (fatal)	20
Hind-legs	10		
Feet	10		
Stern	10		
Coat and feather	10		
General appearance	10		
Total positive points	100	Total negative points	100

Descriptive Particulars.

"*Head.*—Not so heavy in proportion, and not so high in occiput as in the modern field spaniel, with a nicely developed muzzle or jaw; lean, but not snipy, and yet not so square as in the Clumber or Sussex varieties, but always exhibiting a sufficiently wide and well-developed nose. Forehead perfectly smooth, rising without a too decided stop from muzzle into a comparatively wide and rounded well-developed skull, with plenty of room for brain power.

"*Eyes.*—Full, but not prominent, hazel or brown coloured, with a general expression of intelligence

and gentleness, though decidedly wide awake, bright and merry, never gozzled nor weak, as in the King Charles and Blenheim kinds.

"*Ears.*—Lobular, set on low, leather fine and not extending beyond the nose, well clothed with long, silky hair, which must be straight or wavy—no positive curls or ringlets.

"*Neck.*—Strong and muscular, and neatly set on to fine sloping shoulders

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—*Not quite so long and low* as in the other breeds of spaniels, *more compact and firmly knit together*, giving the impression of a concentration of power and untiring activity; the total weight should not exceed 25lb.

"*Nose.*—Sufficiently wide and well developed to insure the exquisite scenting powers of this breed. Colour black.

"*Shoulders and Chest.*—The former sloping and fine, chest deep and well developed, but not too wide and round to interfere with the free action of the forelegs.

"*Back and Loin.*—Immensely strong and compact in proportion to the size and weight of the dog; slightly drooping towards the tail.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Wide, well rounded, and very muscular, so as to insure untiring action and propelling power under the most trying circumstances

of a long day, bad weather, rough ground, and dense covert.

"*Stern.*—That most characteristic of *blue blood* in all the spaniel family, may, in the lighter and more active *Cocker*, although *set low down*, be allowed a slightly higher carriage than in the other breeds, but never cocked up over, but rather in a line with the back, though the lower its carriage and action the better, and when at work its action should be incessant in this, the brightest and merriest of the whole spaniel family.

"*Feet and Legs.*—The legs must be well boned, feathered and straight, for the tremendous exertions expected from this grand little sporting dog, and should be sufficiently short for concentrated power, but not so short as to interfere with its full activity. Feet firm, round, and catlike, not too large, spreading and loose jointed. This distinct breed of spaniel does not follow exactly on the lines of the larger field spaniel, either in lengthiness, lowness, or otherwise; but be shorter in back, and rather higher on the legs.

"*Coat.*—Flat or waved, and silky in texture, never wiry, woolly, nor curly, with sufficient feather of the right sort, viz., waved or setter-like, but not too profuse, and never curly.

"*Colour.*—Jet black; a white shirt frill should

never disqualify; but white feet should not be allowed in any specimen of self-colour.

"*General appearance.*—Confirmatory of all indicated above, viz., a concentration of pure blood and type, sagacity, docility, good temper, affection, and activity."

The Club scale for judging any other variety of cocker :

"Positive Points.	Negative Points.
Same as in the Black Variety.	Subject to colour similar to those of the Black Variety.

"*Head.*—Similar to that of the black cocker.

"*Eyes.*—Dependent on colour and markings.

"*Ears.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

"*Neck.*—Similar to that of the black cocker.

"*Body* (*including size and symmetry*).—Similar to that of the black cocker.

"*Nose.*—The colour will be dependent on the colour of coat and markings, in all other respects similar to the black cocker.

"*Shoulders and chest.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

"*Back and Loin.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Similar in all respects to that described in the black cocker.

"*Stern.*—Identical with that of the black cocker.

"*Feet and Legs.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

"*Coat.*—Similar in every way to the coat of the black variety, except in colour or markings.

"*Colour.*—Black and tan, liver and tan, liver, black tan and white, liver tan and white, lemon and white, roans, and in fact nearly any combination or blending of colours.

"*General appearance.*—In all respects agreeing with the description given for the black variety of this breed."

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE BASSET-HOUND.

In this handsome hound we have another example of the naturalisation of a foreign dog in this country. A quarter of a century ago he was a great favourite in France, and some other parts of the Continent, where he for years had been bred with great care; in England he was almost unknown. Now he is one of our own varieties, at least he is claimed as such, and even "Stonehenge," so loth to adopt anything for ourselves that did not belong to us, so far back as 1881, gave him a place amongst his "Dogs of the British Isles." The Kennel Club acknowledged him in their stud-book by classification in 1883, when but ten entries were made; there were thirty-eight in 1891; and the Curzon Hall committee at Birmingham moved the Basset from the variety class to one of its own in 1882.

Mr. Everett Millais, who took the initiative with regard to the Basset's introduction in this country,

supplies me with the following valuable history and particulars of this hound:

"Before I commence a description of the various kinds of Bassets and their especial points, it might be advantageous to touch upon the origin of the word Basset, since it has been my misfortune, not once but many times, to listen to the most absurd reasons for the nomenclature of the hound. Briefly the word basset means 'a low thing' or a 'dwarf,' and it has a similar derivation to the words bassinette, basset (the game), bastard, basse (a shoal), and many others which it is unnecessary for me to give, all of which have a common ancestor in the French adjective 'bas.'

"The meaning, then, of the word being almost apparent on the face of it, notwithstanding the fact that I have heard people urge with the greatest gravity that the Basset is a hound used for the purpose of hunting the basset, in the same way that the foxhound pursues the fox. It might also be interesting to observe how the hound became a dwarf, for if it be a dwarf, and this is what its name undoubtedly implies, it is obvious that it must be a dwarf of some other race of hound.

"It is also obvious that as there exist many varieties of Bassets in France, Belgium, Austria, and Germany, they too are dwarfs of some form of hounds.

"To account for this somewhat extraordinary assumption I must go back in the history of these countries to somewhat remote periods, and ask the reader what the use in those days, that is to say the days when men did not take the trouble to hunt small game, and the modern weapons of sport were still uninvented, would have been for such a hound as the Basset, which to-day, in France and Belgium especially, is looked upon as one of the best companions the sportsman can have by him.

"I need hardly say that such a hound as the Basset, when men followed the chase on horseback and looked upon rabbits and hares as vermin, would have been quite out of place, and the only logical conclusion one can come to as to the origin of these hounds is, that as men took up the chase of the smaller game a slower hound was required—a type of hound which would at once be produced by breeding only from those that were short in the leg, and consequently slower in speed. Breeding from such hounds, it must be observed, would but tend to decrease the height, and not the bodily proportions, coat, or form of head.

"In due time, as weapons made their appearance —and by weapons I especially mean when guns came into use—a slower dog still was required,

which would either hunt in front of the sportsman or drive game slowly towards him.

"This type of hound would be produced by again breeding from the lowest and heaviest of his predecessors, and, what with the weight in front and the question of stability, the internal ligaments of the carpus would give way, the fore-feet would turn out so as to act as buttresses to the chest wall, and in the animal thus produced we should find a hound of full-sized body, of similar head and colour to the hounds from which it sprang, identical in fact with them except in this peculiar formation of the front and hind feet.

"Such undoubtedly is the manner in which the Basset originated, and what is still more remarkable is the fact that the tallest of the Bassets are the straight-legged ones, the medium the half-crooked, and the lowest the full-crooked, thus showing alone the gradual change which has been wrought by man to bring the great *chiens courants* down to the dwarfs or the Bassets of to-day.

"Had this manufacture, as I may reasonably call it, been limited to one breed of hound, we should naturally find but one breed of Bassets, but this is not so, since from the great variety of Bassets to be found in the countries I have named, it is certain that many breeds of hounds have been thus dealt with.

"As a result Bassets abroad are to be found smooth in coat, wire-haired and rough, straight-legged, half-crooked and full-crooked, and had we imported and bred all the varieties together, my task of describing them would have been somewhat difficult. I am glad, however, to say that we have stuck pretty closely to one strain in the smooths, and am in hopes that the same will follow in the Griffons, consequently in classifying them as we have them, or had them in this country, for one of the smooths has all but disappeared, I can name them as the Basset Français, and the Basset Griffon, the former being the smooth coated and the latter rough.

"In France every smooth-coated Basset is called a Basset Français, whether it be big, little, straight-legged or crooked, tricolour, lemon and white, or any hound colour whatever. The two strains which have been imported into this country are those which combine size with lowness in front and crook, tricolour or lemon and white markings, and, what is more to the point, the true hound type of those hounds from which they are descended. These two strains are the Le Couteulx and The Lane, originating respectively in the 'Artois' and 'Poitevin.'

"The strain of the Le Couteulx hounds owes its

origin to Mons. Le Comte le Couteulx le Cantalan, of Château St. Martin, near Etrepagny, one of the foremost sportsmen and the acknowledged authority on hunting and kennel matters in France, and from him takes its name.

"In it we find two modern types, both due to two hounds, viz., Fino de Paris, formerly the property of the Count, and Termino, the property of Mons. Masson—both of which I shall have to speak of again; but as the difference between them is but of small importance, I will give a general outline of the type of the strain first, and revert to the small differences between them afterwards.

"In general appearance the Le Couteulx is a good sized hound, generally tricolour, but not uncommonly lemon and white, of heavy build and set on short legs, the fore ones being exceedingly massive and crooked.

"Taking the various portions of his body in order, we find the head to be large and set gracefully on the neck, which should be somewhat arched; the head should be domed, of considerable length, and narrow in comparison with its length, though far from weak. It should be of great depth, and the sides should be clean cut and free from any appearance of, or inclination to, cheek bumps.

"The nose should be inclined to the Roman type,

and be set on in a line with the external occipital protuberance, any dipping of a pronounced type or stop being unsightly. The nose itself should be strong and free from snipiness, while the teeth of the upper and lower jaws should meet. A pig-jawed hound, or one that is underhung, being distinctly objectionable.

"The lips should be square and not cut sharply away, and from the lower jaw extensive flews should fall towards the throat.

"The eye should be deeply sunken, showing a prominent haw, and in colour they should be a deep brown.

"The ears should be set on low; are of great length, of velvety texture, and should curl gracefully inwards; their outer surface coming towards the base in contact with the side of the cheek and neck.

"The whole of the head should be covered with loose skin, so loose in fact, that when the hound brings its nose to the ground the skin over the head and cheeks should fall forward and wrinkle sensibly. In a word, the head of the Basset should resemble and approach as nearly as possible the bloodhound in conformation. The neck is massive but graceful, and as it approaches the body it thickens.

"The body itself is extremely powerful, and shows

as it is united with the sacrum a graceful rise, which disappears at the base or set on of the tail.

"If the animal were not so low to the ground its body would not appear of such length as it appears to be. At the same time, it is a lengthy body, but well supported by ribs; and as the ribs cease and we approach the sternum or chest, we find this to be capacious and of great width, the superior portion of the sternum standing out most prominently.

"The body of the chest comes right down between the fore-legs, fitting tightly in an angle formed by the approximation of the two radial bones, which are of great thickness. Below this point the carpus is straight, but the metacarpus inclines outwards, and the phalanges or toes completely so.

"In not a few specimens the carpus inclines forwards, thus giving the animal the appearance of knuckling over, which is a decided fault, and this is due largely to a forward inclination of the radius and ulna bones, which ought to incline inwards, and fit closely to the chest wall. On looking at the animal from the front we at once observe why the legs assume this peculiar formation, viz., inclining inwards from the elbow joint to the wrist joint, and then outwards again to the end of the toes.

"If the legs of the heavy Le Couteulx were straight

the chest would hang between, and the whole weight of the body would necessarily be centred at the shoulder joint. Consequently the animal would be incapable of any active movement and much exposed to dislocation at that joint; but as the legs incline inwards and then outwards the weight of the body is supported below the chest, viz., at the carpus, the latter being as it were the keystone on which the entire weight of the body falls. As a result it is at this point we should expect to find trouble if any portion of the architecture was out of position. I have drawn particular attention to the anatomy of the Bassets here, for it is at this joint we discover unsoundness if present, the reason being, as I have previously observed, that the radius and ulna bones are thrown too far forward, and not placed or gathered sufficiently behind the spot where the whole weight of the body converges.

"To be absolutely sound and perfect in legs, the Basset ought to stand in front between two and three inches from the ground, and in such a manner that if a plummet were dropped from the set on of the neck right through the dog it would touch the ground between the toes, and in front of the carpus.

"The hind legs are massive, like those in front, and should stand well below the hound to bear the weight of the back portion of his body. They are

very muscular, as may be expected, seeing the great weight in front which they have to propel.

"The tail is of considerable length and should be carried gaily, though not so as to curl over the back.

"Our most perfect Bassets of the present day are undoubtedly Mr. Muirhead's Forester, Mrs. Ellis's Paris, Xena, and Dr. Woodhead's Geraldine, and I regret much that I have not their weights and measurements. I shall, however, not be wrong in giving those of my old Model, who, though rather flat in skull and having badly hung ears, was otherwise as perfect a specimen in other particulars as I ever hope to see.

"Measurements, &c., at seven and a half years of age: Weight, 46lb.; height at shoulder, 12 inches; length from tip of nose to set on of tail, 32 inches; length of tail, 11½ inches; girth of chest, 25 inches; girth of loin, 21 inches; girth of head, 17 inches; girth of fore-arm, 6½ inches; length of head from tip of occiput to tip of nose, 9 inches; girth of muzzle at midway, 9½ inches; length of ears from tip to tip, 19 inches; height from ground between fore-feet 2¾ inches.

"I think I have gone now pretty clearly through the points of the Basset as far as his bodily points are concerned, consequently there remain but his coat and colouring.

"In texture the coat should be that of a hound, and, on seizing it, the skin below should come away from the body, leaving the impression that the animal has much more skin than he requires. On no account should the skin fit closely to the body, and even on the fore-legs it should wrinkle, giving to the hound a 'comfortable' appearance.

"As to colour, I am afraid that I am one of those who believe that a good hound, like a good horse, cannot be of a bad colour. I grant the fact that the heavily marked tricolor is very taking to the eye, and that the lemon and white, in comparison to the former, loses greatly in appearance. Still, colour is, after all, but a superficial point, except in breeds where it means much, consequently personally I should never in the judging ring allow colour to weigh greatly in my mind when it was a question of points and type between two animals. The colours then of the Basset are heavy tricolour, light tricolour, hair pie, lemon and white, and tricolour with blue mottles. The latter is particularly pretty and attractive.

"Having now dealt with the question of points, I will give a few particulars as to the introduction of the Basset into this country. The first note I have regarding them is one from Lord Galway, who informed me some years ago that he had been

presented with one or two, by Comte Tournon, of Montmelas. These in due time Lord Galway passed to Lord Onslow, but as this strain is now extinct I need not further dilate on them except to say that they were Le Couteulx hounds, far from inferior specimens, and all beautifully marked.

"Although they might have been known amongst those who had the personal friendship of the two peers I have named, to the general public they were entirely unknown, and it was not until the winter show at Wolverhampton, in 1875, where I showed Model, which I had procured from the Jardin d'Acclimatation the previous year, that the British public had the opportunity of making the Basset hound's acquaintance on the show bench. Model was bred by Comte le Couteulx, and with Fino de Paris stood at stud in the Jardin d'Acclimatation when I first saw him, consequently I had the pick of the two best hounds France could then boast of.

"At that time I was unaware that Lord Onslow had Bassets. Had I known this I would have asked his permission to breed the dog to one of his bitches. But as I did not know this, and I could not then procure a bitch, I, on the advice of the late Mr. Lort, began breeding through a beagle, and in the second generation produced a winner.

"I must here observe that the difference between

the old-fashioned beagle and the Basset does not amount to much except in the legs, and two generations I found quite sufficient to reduce the beagles' legs to those of the Bassets', plus the racial peculiarity.

"In 1877, as Lord Onslow had, through me, obtained from Comte le Couteulx a dog and a bitch, I gave up the beagle line and, in 1878, began to breed pure-bred through Garenne, a bitch by Model out of Lord Onslow's Finette, which, with her brother Fino, he had imported the previous year. In 1880 I was able, through the use of that Fino, to show in the first class given for Bassets in England, namely, at Wolverhampton.

"Up to this date, then, the only owners and breeders of Bassets were Lord Onslow and myself; but in the spring of that year Mr. G. R. Krehl and Mr. Louis Clement imported Fino de Paris, Jupiter, Pallas, Guinevere, Theo, Vivien, and others which it is needless here to mention. By 1886 we were able to place 120 on the bench at the Dachshund and Basset show in the Aquarium. How many there are now in the country it would be difficult to say, but the number is very large, though the entries at shows are not as great as they might be.

"To return, however, to 1880, when Mr. Krehl imported Fino de Paris, it was observable that the

bitches Guinevere, Theo, and Vivien differed somewhat in type from Fino de Paris. I have already said that I had the opportunity of selecting this latter hound in 1874, at the Jardin d'Acclimatation, where he had been sent by Comte le Couteulx to stand at stud, and I may now mention that before being sent to Paris he had been bred from ; the bitches Guinevere, Theo, and Vivien being descended from him.

"I here give their pedigrees: Trouvette out of Fino de Paris by Fanfaro from Ravaude ; Trouvette by Mignarde out of Fino de Paris ; Finette out of Termino ; Mignarde by Finette out of Termino ; Finette by Guinevere out of Theo ; and Vivien by Fanfare out of Theo. That is to say, Fino de Paris being put to Trouvette and Ravaude, produced from them respectively Mignarde and Fanfaro. He was then put to his daughter Mignarde, producing Finette, who in turn was put to Termino, this alliance producing Guinevere and Theo ; the latter, being put to Fanfaro, producing Vivien.

"Under these circumstances, and the inbreeding that had gone on, it is only just to suppose that in the three bitches I have named, we should have seen a strong personal resemblance or a strong family type in them to that of Fino de Paris. As a matter of fact they did not resemble Fino de Paris,

but had a common type amongst themselves, which was doubtless inherited from their sire, and in the case of Vivien, grandsire, namely, Termino. Consequently, I can only come to the conclusion that the breeder, from whom these hounds were imported, being desirous of an outcross after the inbreeding to Fino de Paris, put Finette to Termino, and returned the produce again to a son of the old dog.

"What Termino was, or how he was bred, remains an unfathomable mystery, notwithstanding the fact that I have made every inquiry; but it appears to me reasonable to suppose that he was either a large Basset à Jambes Droites, or one of the smaller *chiens courants*, and for this reason, viz., the offspring Guinevere and Theo could hardly be called Bassets à Jambes Torses, while Vivien, got by one of Fino de Paris' sons, was correctly described as such.

"Now the reason I have largely entered into this question of breeding in France is for the following cause: When Fino de Paris and the three bitches were imported here he was put to Guinevere, and of this litter we had two well-known hounds, viz., Fino V. and Bourbon. Fino V. was almost a counterpart of his sire, while Bourbon took after his mother's side of the house, and resembled the three bitches I have named.

"Again, Fino V., on being put to Vivien, produced another hound of Fino de Paris's type, viz., Fino VI.; whilst the same bitch, on being put to Bourbon, gave birth to D'Aumale and Chopette, who were clearly of a totally different stamp to Fino de Paris, and resembled Bourbon and the three bitches. As a result, I think there can be but little doubt that Termino was the cause of this difference, and what that difference is I will now explain.

"The Fino de Paris hounds take after their prototype, Fino de Paris. They are very heavily marked, except when lemon and white; they are much coarser in the coat than the Terminos; they are, as a rule, larger and heavier in the bone; and, finally, they are nearer to the ground and exceedingly torse in front.

"The Terminos differ where I have already pointed out, and, in addition, their skulls are not so domed and their markings are more regular—white playing a much larger part in the marking than in the Fino de Paris. In addition, their coats are much finer, shorter, and they are not built on such heavy lines.

"The most successful breeders in this country have been Lord Onslow, Mr. Krehl, Mr. Craven, Mrs. Stokes, and Mrs. Ellis, of Brettenham Park, Billesden, the latter for the past few years having

carried all before her. Putting aside Lord Onslow, who has been away and given up Bassets for some years, it might be interesting to note, from a breeder's point of view, the gradual development of this hound to modern times, from the mating of Fino de Paris and Trouvette, in France, something like a quarter of a century ago.

"In doing this, I shall apply myself to the Fino de Paris type alone, since the Bourbon is all but extinguished; and, having done so, I will ask the reader to believe that type cannot be got unless we inbreed, and that inbreeding does not necessarily deteriorate stock if properly carried out.

"To prove this, I give the names of the following hounds, and how they are inbred to the Fino de Paris: Mignarde, $\frac{1}{2}$; Finette, $\frac{3}{4}$; Guinevere, $\frac{3}{8}$; Fino V., $\frac{11}{16}$; Fino VI., $\frac{18}{32}$; Forester, $\frac{29}{64}$; Paris, $\frac{55}{128}$; and Xitta, $\frac{113}{258}$.

"What I show here is the direct succession from father to son or daughter, in all, eight generations of hounds. Under normal circumstances, had they been bred 'anyhow,' these hounds would begin at Mignarde with two parents, one of which was Fino de Paris, and finish at Xitta with no less than 258. By inbreeding, starting with Finette, she has two, Guinevere has three, Fino V. has the same number,

Fino VI. has four, Forester has seven, Paris has eight, and Xitta has the same number.

"In all, except Guinevere, the defunct Fino de Paris might almost have been their real sire, and, as a standing proof of the necessity of inbreeding, the only one that did not resemble him was Guinevere, who has not the amount of blood necessary.

"To anyone interested in the study of breeding, and especially breeding for individual type, I recommend them most strongly to get the Basset Hound Stud Book and work out the blood factors of the hounds there inscribed. On comparing them with past show reports and the hounds now on the bench, they will without any difficulty come to the conclusion that there is not a hound in this country worth the biscuits it is fed on, or can show the Fino de Paris type, that is not bred upon the lines I have shown these generations to be.

"My recollections of Fino de Paris are not such as will entitle me to describe him very accurately, but I may say this—viz., that I do not believe, grand hound as he was, that he could have compared favourably with the hounds that are on the bench to-day; and, furthermore, that France could not show a class of such character and type as we can bring together. The proof of this latter statement is to be found in the somewhat

plaintive remark of a well-known French sportsman, who visits this country regularly, viz.: 'If we had known what you could produce from Fino de Paris, he would never have left the Jardin d'Acclimatation!'

"It will no doubt be interesting to note the methods by which Mrs. Ellis, alluded to earlier on, contrived to obtain such a kennel that until lately she possessed. If my memory serves me aright, Mrs. Ellis bought her first Basset—a small bitch, named Venus II., by Champion Jupiter *ex* Venus—at the Warwick Show of 1886, and, by mating this bitch with Champion Fino VI. in 1887, Champion Psyche II. resulted. In 1889 she bred Champion Paris, Champion Xena, Napoleon II., and Miriam, from Psyche II. by Forester; and in the same year had another litter from Champion Fino VI. and Venus II., of which Cupid II. is a representative. In 1891, from Paris and Venus II., Isola and Marvel were produced; whilst, from the union of Forester and Xena, Zero and Xitta were obtained. Again, in 1892, a younger litter of brothers and sisters to Champion Xena and Paris made their appearance, to be heard of in the show ring when their time comes.

"However, leaving them for a moment, and forgetting entirely that in 1890 Mrs. Ellis acquired

by purchase Champion Forester, such a trio as Paris, Xena, and Isola would make the reputation of any kennel. Starting, as Mrs. Ellis did, in such a humble way, it only proves what can be done by sheer perseverance, and, if I may say so, a singular capacity for successful mating of hounds, the progeny of such unions producing animals of the highest type. At the time when Mrs. Ellis had not only the above, but Champion Psyche, Champion Forester, and others, it is manifest her kennel was invincible. Towards the close of 1892 it was rumoured that her hounds would be no longer at the service of the public. Had this rumour proved correct it is difficult to say exactly what it would have meant to the breeders of Basset hounds, for, if we except Mr. Lord and Mr. Musson, no one has a single dog fit to take the place of champions Forester and Paris. That the public know this is seen in the fact that, with two exceptions, every new face of merit seen on the benches in 1892 was sired by these two hounds.

"I shall say but a few words concerning the Lane hounds, as they are now in their purity extinct in this country. Like the Le Couteulx, they were started by the gentleman whose name they bear, Mons. Lane, of Francqueville, near Boos. They are as a race bigger and heavier than the Le Couteulx,

and lighter in colour, many of them being lemon and whites. It is, however, in their heads that we find the greatest difference, since the skin is tighter; the eyes more prominent and yellow, which gives them a wild appearance; the lips, too, are cut sharply away, and they appear to lack the great flews which give such stately dignity to the Le Couteulx, as bred in this country. Their ears, however, set on very low, are of great length, though they do not curl so nicely inwards, some hounds having them, as it were, plastered to the side of the head.

"Their first appearance was in 1880, when Mr. Krehl imported two bitches; but they have never taken in this country, and have solely been used for crossing and outbreeding where size and ear are desired. I shall therefore say no more about them, as nowadays they are extinct with us, no pure specimens having ever been born over here.

THE BASSET GRIFFON.

"Some twenty years ago, when I was at school in Paris, I used frequently to adjourn to a dog dealer's, whose shop still exists close to the Arc de Triomphe. I was there last year, and on asking Mons. Ravry if he could find me a couple of Basset

Griffons, such as he used to keep years ago, he informed me that he could not, unless I put my hand very deeply into my pocket. These hounds were like otterhounds in form and texture of coat, likewise of the same colour, and quite as big as the largest smooth coated Bassets over here. About 1874—1875 I used to see a similar type of hound in the variety class at our leading shows, owned first by Dr. Seton, and then by the Rev. J. C. Macdona. This hound is registered in the Kennel Club Stud Book as Romano, and a very handsome specimen he was; a hard coated, workmanlike dog, brown-grey grizzle in colour, and always admired by the hunting men who saw him either on the bench or in the ring.

"Since then I have never seen a hound like Romano in type and size, except Mrs. Ellis's Rocket, which, though not of exactly quite the same character, comes nearer to that mentioned above than the smaller varieties, which might pass better as rough-coated dachshunds than do duty at our shows as Basset griffons.

"In the last class of these hounds which I had the pleasure of inspecting there were no less than four types, and if we included those owned by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, I may, I think, correctly state that there are five different

types of Basset griffons in this country at the present moment.

"Now, far be it from me to run down any of these types, or say that one is better than the other, but I will say, as I said at the commencement of this article, that in France there are any number of types of Bassets to choose from; and, while we in the smooth-coated variety chose the grandest of all the types, and have brought it to perfection, our Griffon brother fanciers have not gone about their business in the same fashion, and have certainly not obtained the *crème de la crème* of Basset griffons. I have seen many of them, and for type and quality it appears to me that those from Vendée are the biggest, handsomest, and best fitted for the work they have to do. They are, as I have described, such as those I used to see at Mons. Ravry's, and are just as low to the ground as their smooth-coated brethren.

"A splendid field is open to any admirer of the Basset griffon who has time and patience to search for specimens, and I hope before long to see some of them on our show benches."

Since his first introduction the Basset-hound has progressed, but, although his head and expression are, as a rule, almost handsome, and perhaps more beautiful than are to be found on any other hound,

his unduly long body and crooked legs are, as in the case of the dachshund, likely to prevent his ever being a popular idol. Still he has many admirers, for he is a quiet sensible hound, and an attractive one likewise. As a companion he is affectionate, but his short legs and heavy body make him less adapted for outdoor exercise than many other varieties of the dog, especially when the roads and streets are dirty, and where he is kept in the house. A Basset-hound can take more mud into a drawing-room than a giant St. Bernard or a mastiff, and sometimes he possesses a rather strong odour of the kennels. However, kept clean and nicely groomed, his expression and gaudy markings are sure to attract attention anywhere, and he is not so quarrelsome as our own hounds.

During the period of his naturalisation with us, he has in several instances been used for hare hunting, and packs of Bassets for that purpose have from time to time been formed. An excellent pack has for some seasons given good sport round about Brighton, their kennels being at Aldington, West Brighton, Mr. Croker being the huntsman. Last year these Bassets, amongst other good runs, had a hare before them for three hours, when hounds were called off.

At Wallasey, near Birkenhead, there was, until

the spring of 1892, another pack of Bassets, but owing to a difficulty in getting country to hunt it was discontinued. Mr. Heseltine, from Walhampton, Boldre, Hampshire, has twelve couples of Bassets, with which many first rate runs have been had, and last year about a dozen hares were killed. One part of the season the meets are in the neighbourhood of the New Forest, and later, hounds remove to near Cambridge, where the season finishes. Considerable pains are taken to perfect the work both with the Walhampton and the Brighton Bassets, and the former have two whips, the Marquis of Camden and Mr. O. H. Dickson

At Norly Hall, Frodsham, Cheshire, Mr. A. L. Woodhouse has a smart lot of hounds—four and a half couple of dogs and three and a half couple of bitches—with which he and his friends have excellent sport, killing three or four hares a season, although their country is not extensive nor particularly good for the purpose, and hounds are seldom out more than once a week. By far the most typical pack is that of the Melbourne (Australian) Basset Hunt Club, of which Mr. J. C. Anderson is master. I need scarcely say that this pack was established by drafts from this country, and it includes a number of specially good hounds that were given to the hunt by Mr. E. Millais. At the

Melbourne dog shows these Bassets have proved a great attraction. The usual mode of following Basset hounds is on foot, and by so doing some excellent hunting is seen. It seems really wonderful how quickly the heavily-bodied, short-legged hounds get over the ground.

There are some earnest sportsmen who prefer hunting the hare with the Basset rather than with the Beagle or Harrier. With the former, those on foot are certainly likely to see more of the run, and have, if their lungs be sound and their legs strong, a very good chance of being in at the death, though the chase may last a couple of hours or more. Harriers would kill a similar "jack hare" in less than half an hour. Small beagles might perform the same feat in an hour or so. The latter are certainly the brighter and merrier hunters, and possess a greater amount of dash and go than the short-legged, heavily-bodied hounds; the latter, perhaps, excelling in voice. I do not think the Basset more painstaking and careful on a cold line than the Beagle.

The *Field* from time to time gives accounts of runs with Basset-hounds, and some of those with the Sussex pack appear to have been particularly satisfactory. The Basset has a particularly fine voice, the tone of some of them almost as

lovely as that the otter-hound can produce. He is slow on scent, and, of course, his long body and short crooked legs quite put him out of court as likely to be of use in a stone wall country.

A pack can kill a hare well enough, but after the fox such hounds would not be of the slightest use; and even after the hare the Bassets require to be on an easy country, where the fences are few and the hills neither too steep nor too rough. On the Continent the various strains of the Basset-hound are used for beating and working the coverts, being utilised exactly in the same way as we in this country work spaniels, and, in a few cases, beagles.

There is a Basset Hound Club in England, which was established in 1883, and, by providing special prizes at various exhibitions, in many cases classes are placed in the schedule which, under ordinary conditions, would not be found there. Personally I have never owned a Basset. I have admired them, and recollect how favourably I was struck with the appearance of a team that Mr. Everett Millais showed at Wolverhampton about thirteen years ago, and alluded to earlier in this chapter. They were little known then, but certainly on that occasion formed one of the features of an interesting provincial show. Since that time (and before) Mr. Millais has perhaps taken more interest

in the Basset than any other Englishman, and may be considered the British authority on the variety, so no doubt what he has so kindly supplied will prove a valuable contribution on the subject.

Our typical Basset hound has been fully described earlier in this chapter. The club which looks after his welfare has not had any special scale of points drawn up, and in the absence of such I have compiled the following :

Head (including expression, skull, &c.)	20	Loins and hindquarters	15
Ears	15	Stern	5
Shoulders, chest, and neck	10	Coat	5
Legs and feet	15	Colour	5
		Character	10
	60		40

Grand Total 100.

Weight, dogs from 40lb. to 48lb. ; bitches about 5lb. less.

Arthur Wardle

CHAPTER XXIX.

THE DACHSHUND.

WHETHER we shall ever get another dog from the Continent that, within so few years, has spread, multiplied, and become so much one of ourselves as the dachshund, is an open question. His disposition was genial, his habits were of the best, but he was quaint in look, and if not so autocratic in appearance as the Borzoi, he trotted behind his master or mistress, with all the airs that follow high life, conveying an impression that he alone had the right to be where he was. Then, again, he was not a fighting dog, and, though excellent as "a watch and guard," he was not ill-natured, and his skin was so soft and velvety that it became pleasanter to feel and stroke him than to do the same with a Dandie Dinmont terrier or another pet terrier that was said to be brought from the Isle of Skye; and he certainly appeared to be two animals rolled into one—a hound and a terrier—perhaps he is the connecting link between the two breeds.

With such qualifications he soon became a favourite, and from being represented in couples in the variety class at our dog shows he speedily appeared in scores, and had, as he has now, many separate divisions provided for him—challenge cups, and other valuable prizes, and a specialist club to look after his welfare to boot. These remarks, and subsequent ones, are in connection with the smooth-coated little hound as we acknowledge him, and do not include the rough-haired variety that has occasionally been seen here, and is pretty common in some parts of the German Empire.

Who was responsible for bringing the first dachshund to England I do not know, any more than I am acquainted with the particulars of the origin of the dog itself. Some sporting men of the old school have said he was nothing more than the common turnspit, which the cooks of their grandparents had used in their kitchens to turn the spit in which their joints and geese and turkeys were roasted. Perhaps there had been some connection between the two breeds; there was a resemblance, for both had short crooked legs and unduly long bodies, but the cooks' dogs were seldom whole coloured, as is pretty nearly always the case with the dachshund, at least with our British variety.

No doubt either the dachshund himself, or a dog

very like him, perhaps it was the turnspit, was known in the East long before the Christian era. Old Egyptian and Assyrian sculptures, some of them 2000 B.C., depict a dog much after his stamp, but whether he was then used as a sporting dog or as a companion, or to assist in culinary operations, we are not told, all we know is that at the court of King Thothmes III. he was a favourite. Since that period he has undergone many modifications. Even within the past quarter of a century, since his association with our English dogs, his character has changed somewhat. In Germany, Belgium, and other parts of the Continent, from whence he came to us, he is used as a sporting dog, to draw or drive the fox and badger, but here he is for the most part used as a companion and for exhibition purposes, and his rapid growth to popularity is evidence of his excellence in both respects. Still, even our English dachshunds will do their work well when properly trained to the duty.

Comparatively few of our dachshunds have any chance of showing how good they are at sport. If properly entered they have no equals at their legitimate game of going to ground to fox and badger, when the latter have to be dug out. I do not for a moment suggest that he will bolt a hunted fox as quickly as a huntsman's terrier—that is not his

game. All the dachshund professes to do is to find the fox or badger in his earth and remain there until you can dig to him. He makes no attempt to fight or attack the "varmint," but simply barks at it incessantly. Then if the game does turn his back upon his plucky little opponent, the latter immediately proceeds to business by a fierce attack in the rear, which is discontinued when the game turns again and faces the hound.

This description of work, of course, enables the hunters to dig with great accuracy in the direction the fox or badger lies, and the wary dachshund is rarely badly hurt, whereas the terrier that gets to close quarters with a badger, in his natural earth, will, as a rule, get terribly mauled. Still, I have had fox terriers that would bark and bark until the game budged, but this barking is not always good enough to drive a fox, and under no circumstances will it send either otter or badger into open. Particulars of a few day's sport with dachshunds appear at the end of this chapter.

When duly entered the dachshund makes an excellent line hunter, and Mr. Harry Jones, of Ipswich, tells me that his bitch Juliet was regularly hunted with a pack of Basset-hounds, and was about the most reliable of the lot. Of course, one has not to go further for an instance of the

general gameness of the dachshund race than the trials with them on the Continent at both foxes and badger, which the best dogs have to treat much in the same manner as our terriers have to do here on certain occasions. It is quite the custom for such trials to be arranged at certain dog shows in Belgium and Germany for the delectation of English visitors, who, however, do not as a rule take particularly kindly to what some persons consider a high branch of sport.

About the period when the dachshund was gaining its popularity here, considerable correspondence about him took place in the *Field* as to what he was and what he was not, and, if I make no mistake, Mr. Barclay Hanbury, Mr. John Fisher (Cross Hill, Leeds), and others, gave their opinions on the subject. However, notwithstanding the complications likely to ensue on the introduction of a new breed, especially when one authority quoted Dr. Fitzinger, who said there were twelve varieties of the dachshund—a statement fortunately qualified by the remark that they were mostly cross-bred—all went well. In due course something like the correct article was fixed upon, and from that we have our dogs of the present time. As a fact I see less discrepancy in the type of the modern dachshund than is to be noticed in some other purely English breeds—the fox terrier, to wit.

Although some of our best dogs are accepted by German authorities as excellent specimens, still our British breeders have in a degree struck out a line of their own, and where, on the Continent at any rate, two varieties were acknowledged, the hound type and the terrier type, here a happy medium has been struck, and the handsome dog now seen on our show benches is the result. I have a large amount of information as to the work and general description of the quaint little dog as he is seen in Germany, and where he divides national favouritism with the Great Dane, but I fancy, in a book dealing with British dogs alone (and those that we have made such by fancy or manipulation) it will be best not to trespass on foreign ground. The Germans especially do well by their favourite dog, and the Dachshund Stud Book published by them is certainly, for completeness and tasteful elaboration, ahead of anything we publish in this country. As an instance of what is done in this particular, it may be mentioned that where the dog alluded to is red in colour, particulars of him are printed in red ink, and where he is black and tan the usual black ink is used. The same arrangement applies to the portraits of dogs, with which the pages of this Stud Book are thickly interspersed.

Some twenty years ago Herr Beckmann, one of

the German authorities, dealing with the different types of the breed, wrote as follows:

Having concentrated all varieties of the badger dog to one single class—the crook-legged, short-haired dog, with head neither hound nor terrier like, weight from 18lb. to 20lb., colour black-tan and its variations—we shall still meet many varying forms. With some attention we shall soon distinguish the *common* breed and the *well* or *high-bred* dachshund. The first is a stout, strong-boned, muscularly built dog, with large head and strong teeth; the back not much arched, sometimes even straight; tail long and heavy; forelegs strong and regularly formed; the head and tail often appear to be too large in the dog; the hair is rather coarse, thick-set, short, and wiry, lengthened at the underside of the tail, without forming a brush or feather, and covering a good deal of the belly. These dogs are good workmen, and are less affected by weather than high-bred ones; but they are very apt to exceed 18lb. and even 20lb. weight, and soon get fat if not worked frequently. From this common breed originates the well and high-bred dog, which may at any time be produced again from it by careful selection and inbreeding without any cross. The *well* and *high-bred* dog is smaller in size, finer in bone, more elegantly built, and seldom exceeds 16lb. to 17lb. weight; the thin, slight tapering tail is only of medium length; the hair is very short, glossy like silk, but not soft; the under part of the body is very thin haired, rendering these nervous and high spirited dogs rather sensitive to wet ground and rain. These two breeds are seldom met with in their purity, the vast majority of dachshunds in Germany ranging between the two, and differing in shape very much, as they are more or less well-bred or neglected. In this third large group we still meet with many good and useful dogs, but also all those aberrant forms, with pig snouts and short under jaws, apple-headed skulls, deep set or staring eyes, short necks, wheel backs, ring tails, fore-legs joining at the knees, and long hind legs bent too much in the stifles and hocks.

That we have not the latter in this country can with truth be stated, and I think the majority of the best dogs with us now will quite equal the standard of the best as laid down by Germany's great authority.

So far as my judgment goes, English breeders like Mr. W. Arkwright, Mr. M. Wootten, Mr. A. W. Byron, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. A. O. Mudie, Mr. H. A. Walker, Captain and Mrs. Barry, and others, have produced dachshunds quite equal to any that have appeared of late years at the leading Continental exhibitions, although, naturally, more specimens are bred there than with us.

I have been favoured with the following critical summary and history of most of the best dogs that have appeared in the show ring in this country, and, being compiled by one of our most earnest admirers of the breed, Mr. Harry Jones, no further guarantee of its value need be given. He says:

The first dachshunds that are recorded as winning prizes in England were Mr. H. Corbet's Carl and Grete; when at Birmingham in 1866, they were each awarded a prize in the "Extra class for any known breed of sporting dogs." And in these "extra" classes, all dachshunds had to compete until the show held at the Crystal Palace in June, 1873, when, for the first time, a class was given for the breed, and the winners on this occasion were Mr. Hodge's Erdmann, 1st; Rev. G. F. Lovell's Satan, 2nd; and Hon. Gerald Lascelles' Schnaps, 3rd; but from 1866 to 1873, dachshunds, whenever exhibited, were invariably winners in these

"extra" classes, the chief winners being Mr. Fisher's Feldmann, Mr. Seton's Dachs, Rev. G. F. Lovell's Satan and Mouse, and the Earl of Onslow's Waldmann. Birmingham gave a separate class in 1873, the winners being Mr. Fisher's Feldmann 1st, and the Hon. Gerald Lascelles' Schnaps 2nd; this was a good class of fifteen entries, and they were judged by the late Mr. Lort.

At the Kennel Club Show, held at the Crystal Palace in June, 1874, two classes were given, "Red" and "Other than red," and separate divisions were given during the year at Pomona Gardens, Manchester, at Nottingham, and at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester; whilst at Birmingham two classes were given, "Red" and "other than Red," when Mr. Bass's Slap was 1st, and Rev. G. F. Lovell's Mouse 2nd in reds, and Mr. Hodge's Erdmann 1st, and Hon. Miss E. Strutt's Thekla 2nd in the other than red class.

At the Kennel Club Show at the Crystal Palace in June, 1875, Prince Albert Solms judged the dachshunds and the classes were divided into "Black and tan" and "Other than black and tan," and there were thirty entries in the two. In the first named class H.R.H. the Prince of Wales won first with Deurstich, a dog five years old, bred at Sandringham, and the dam of Marguerite, the second prize winner, was bred by Her Majesty the Queen. In the second class, the Duke of Hamilton won with Badger, a nice red puppy eleven months old, bred by himself, and the Rev. G. F. Lovell was second with Pixie, a red bitch imported from Hanover. Pixie was very houndy in head, compared with the dachshunds then being shown, was smaller in size, with a beautiful arched loin. At Nottingham Mr. Hutton's Festus won first and also first at Birmingham, when he beat Slap, the 1874 winner. Festus won a large number of prizes, he was a very good bodied dog, but was short in ear.

In 1876, more dachshunds were exhibited with the decidedly pronounced hound type of head than had been previously shown; these included Xaverl, a most beautiful stamp of dachshund, full of quality, particularly good in loin, imported from the Royal Kennels, near Stuttgart. Most of our best dachshunds go back

to Xaverl, and many of them are in-bred to him. Xaverl first appeared at the Kennel Club Show at the Crystal Palace in June, when he was placed second, Pixie being first; but this decision was reversed at Brighton. Zieten came out with Xaverl, and was awarded an extra prize, he was said to be the sire of Xaverl, though they were quite different in type; and most of Zieten's stock born in England had his square, lippy type of head, short cloddy body, with immense bone; whereas Xaverl was a most graceful dog, with beautiful neck and shoulders, magnificent loin, but light in bone.

At Maidstone, Dina came out and was awarded an extra first, she had a lovely head, narrow and straight, with a beautiful skull, good skin and bone, but moved badly behind. Fritz also came out at Maidstone, he had particularly long ears, was rather large, but plain in head, he was not so low, nor with so much bone as Dina. At Darlington Festus beat Xaverl, and again at Birmingham, but the judging of dachshunds at this time was very inconsistent.

At Brighton, in October, Dessauer, Chenda, Linda, and Schlupferle were new faces. Dessauer won first in black and tan dogs, and five prizes were awarded in black and tan bitches, viz., Marguerite 1st, Chenda 2nd, Linda 3rd, Dina 4th, and Frou Frou 5th. In the other than black and tan, Xaverl 1st, Pixie 2nd, Schlupferle 3rd, and Gisella 4th; the latter was a very small bitch, light in bone and toyish in head. Dessauer had a long punishing terrier-like head, was too large, but very sound; Chenda was houndy, but, like her dam Waldine, lacking in quality; Linda was still larger, with a particularly long head, but flat in skull; Schlupferle was a large red bitch, with a good head, but wanting in length of ear, and short of quality. At Birmingham, 1876, Major Cooper's Waldmann, bred by Count Münster, came out, and only obtained h.c., but in the following year, 1877, he won first each time shown, viz., at the Kennel Club Shows at the Agricultural Hall and Alexandra Palace, and at Birmingham, whilst at the Alexandra Palace the following year, when shown in excellent

condition, he did not obtain even a card, such was the in-and-out judging of dachshunds about this time.

In 1877 the dachshund classes at the Kennel Club shows were divided by weight as well as by colour, and few fresh faces appeared in the prize lists. In the class for "over 20lb." Olga, a nice red bitch, was first at the Agricultural Hall, with Dina second. Olga had won first at Bath the month previous : she was a houndy bitch, too large, and not sound in front. Her blood is to be found in a very large number of our best dachshunds, chiefly through Wag, her son by Bodo ; she also to Fritz bred that good bitch Flink. In 1878 another change was made in the division of the classes at the Kennel Club shows, this time by colour and height. A large number of dachshunds came out in 1878 that are to be found in the pedigrees of most of the dachshunds of the present day, and others only distinguished themselves on the show bench. These include Mrs. Hoare's Faust, Mr. Arkwright's Hans, Otto, and Senta, Mr. Hutton's Haufmann, Mr. C. Goas's Teck, Captain Shaw's Von, Mr. Wootten's Zigzag and Zanah, and Mr. Byron's Beckah—these were all bred in England, except Haufmann and Teck. Faust came out a seven months old puppy at the Kennel Club winter show, when he was second to his sire Dessauer. Faust won a large number of prizes, and his stock, more especially from Zulette, were very successful on the show bench. Hans became famous chiefly through his daughter Hagar from Linda, although he sired several nice dachshunds from other bitches. Mr. E. Hutton's Haufmann was a good coloured black and tan, another son of Dessauer, but better in head ; though too large, he was a celebrated prize winner. He came out in a dachshund class at Blaydon-on-Tyne, when he was placed equal with Xaverl, and at Birmingham he commenced the somewhat extraordinary performance of winning first for six consecutive years, viz., 1878 to 1883 ; still, very few of the present prize winners go back to him in their pedigree. Otto came out as a ten months old puppy, and won at the Kennel Club show at the Crystal Palace, beating his sire

Xaverl; he was a nice red puppy, but he lacked the quality of Xaverl, who turning the tables, beat him the same year at Bristol, at the Kennel Club show, and at the Alexandra Palace. At this show Zigzag and Senta made their first appearance, the former only getting third, but as he was but eight months' old, he had not let down and furnished, so appeared high on the leg; still, the awards were very inconsistent as regards any type: Xaverl, first; Von, second; Zigzag, third; Otto, v.h.c.; Von Jostik (Zieten), v.h.c., and Teck, h.c.; the latter had won first the previous week at Birmingham. Von was much of the same type as his sire Zieten, cloddy in body, and lacking the beautiful outline of Xaverl.

Then Senta caused a flutter among dachshund breeders; she had no difficulty in winning first in her class; her skull and ears were wonderful, and her skin and bone extraordinary, but she lacked the grand outline of body of her sire Xaverl; it was a great loss to the breed that she was never bred from; Zanah, her litter sister, not at all good in head, became famous as the dam of a large number of winners. In 1879 champion classes were established, and Xaverl was the first winner at the Kennel Club show at the Alexandra Palace in July, 1879, beating Dessauer, old Erdmann arriving too late to compete; but his presence would have made no difference in the awards. At this show Otto was exhibited by Mr. Mudie, when he only obtained v.h.c.; he should have made a valuable stud dog; his sister Erdine bred a good dog in Mr. Parrot's Zänker, and also Mr. Southwell's Hannah.

Olympia, a puppy by Otto, came out in the puppy class in this year; she was scarcely six months old, and won first, the writer's Blitz being second; Olympia was simply immense, much too large, coarse in head, but with wonderful ears, skin, and bone; whereas Blitz was very small, with a lot of quality, and excellent loin. The awards at the Kennel Club show, held at Brighton, in November, upset all previous opinions of dachshund type, when Olympia was placed over Xaverl and Zigzag, the latter being again beaten by Zänker at Birmingham. The new faces in 1880

included Rev. G. F. Lovell's El Zingaro and Segesta, Mr. Byron's Jonah, Alma, and Hilda, Mr. Arkwright's Ozone and Octavia, Mr. Mudie's Flink, the writer's Jäger and Jezebel, and last, but by no means least in importance, Mr. Mudie's Thusnelda. Mr. Lovell's puppies were not sent to the Kennel Club show at the Crystal Palace, but came out at Stratford-on-Avon in October, where El Zingaro was second to the writer's Jäger, and in the bitch class Segesta was second to Octavia—a nice red bitch with capital loin, but not quite sound; she was first exhibited by her breeder, Mr. Byron, at Chesterfield, when she obtained only v.h.c.; but she followed up her Stratford victory by winning for Mr. Arkwright first Bristol and first Alexandra Palace. Jonah and Alma came out at Chesterfield; the latter, a litter sister to Olympia, was spoiled by her bad carriage of ears.

Hilda, Flink, and Thusnelda all made a first appearance at the Kennel Club show at the Crystal Palace in June, the former, a sister to Jonah and Octavia, won in the puppy class. She had a beautiful type of head and ears, good loin, but had four white feet and a good sized patch of white on her throat and chest. Flink won first in red bitches, a good bitch with a coarse stern, like her sire, Fritz. The black and tan bitch class at this show was described by Mr. Arkwright, who judged them, as "a magnificent class;" and it is a question whether five black and tan bitches so good as Chenda, Beckah, Alma, Dina, and Thusnelda have ever competed together. Beckah came out at Oxford in June, 1878, when she was equal second with Zillah to Major Cooper's Waldmann. She had the much coveted arched loin. Thusnelda was considered by some breeders as being small and light in bone, but she was credited with having won first Hanover, first Munich, first Elms, and first Ulm. She was small by comparison with the others in the class, but dachshunds were undoubtedly being bred too large at this time, and an outcross of a small size of the hound type was very much required, and Thusnelda proved to be the very thing. By the end of the year she had gone from Mr. Mudie's kennel to Mr. Arkwright's, and

the following spring she was put to Ozone, and bred the famous litter consisting of Maximus, Superbus, and Mignonne, from which so many of our very best dachshunds are descended.

Jezebel, a small Zigzag-Zanah bitch, with an excellent loin, capital body, but failing in head, came out and won first at Manchester when seven months old. She bred to Maximus, Joan of Arc, Joubert, Jocelyn, Brownie, &c., all of which have bred winners. At Birmingham Mr. Wootten brought out Zadkiel, litter brother to Jezebel, but neither Zadkiel nor his sire Zigzag obtained even a card.

This inconsistent judging helped in some manner to bring about the formation of the Dachshund Club. On the day previous to the Kennel Club show at the Alexandra Palace in January, 1881, a meeting was held and the club formed, those present at the meeting being Mr. Arkwright, Rev. G. F. Lovell, Mr. Wootten, and the writer.

At the Kennel Club show Mr. Arkwright brought out Ozone, then seven months old, by Zigzag out of Zaidee (litter sister to Senta and Zanoh). Ozone was not entered in the open class, in which Mr. Wootten's Zadkiel won, but in a good puppy class of fifteen entries. Ozone was first and Zadkiel second, Zulette was h.c., and Jezebel c. In the competition for the cup for the best dachshund in the show, in which the following competed—Zigzag, Mr. Baker's Handsel, Alma, Octavia, and Ozone, the latter won.

During the various shows of 1881 a number of good dachshunds came out. At the Kennel Club show, at the Crystal Palace, Jude (litter brother to the famous Hagar) won first in the open class and second in puppies (a large class of twenty-five) to Hannah, a puppy of Mr. Southwell's, by Hans—Erdine (sister to Otto). Hannah had a good loin and nice type of head, but was deficient in bone. Jude, although possessing excellent type of head, with capital skin and bone, was too large and deficient in quality. At this show Ozone beat Senta for the cup for the best dachshund in the show.

Hagar came out at Chesterfield, bred by Mr. Byron and

exhibited by Mr. Wootten. She won first in the bitch class, and afterwards beat the writer's Jude for the special. Hagar was certainly a very beautiful dachshund, excellent in type of head, with capital skin and bone. She was on the big side, and not quite perfection in loin and stern. She has become celebrated in pedigree chiefly through her son Charkow and her daughter Rachel, that was bred to Graf III. Hagar carried all before her. At the Kennel Club show at the Alexandra Palace she beat Zigzag and Ozone for the best dachshund in the show. Mr. Benson's Rosa (litter sister to Hagar) first appeared at this show, when she was placed second to Olympia. Rosa had a nice clean, long head, with a capital jaw, good body, but carried her stern badly. The writer's Julian and Juliet, by Hans ex Dina, were prize winners here. In fact, no less than three first prizes, four second prizes, the medal, and the cup were won by dachshunds at this show that had Hans for their sire. And Hans was also exhibited, but he only obtained v.h.c. He was not exactly a show dog, but he proved himself a valuable stud dog. Juliet was nearly black with white fore feet, but she was houndy in type, had an excellent skull, with nicely set and low carriage of ears. At Birmingham, Mrs. Price's Neva (a sister to Wag) won in class for red bitches. She was long, with strong loin, and a very good type of head.

'In 1882 the division of the classes by colour was abolished at Kennel Club shows. At the Alexandra Palace, in June, Mr. Arkwright brought out the famous litter—Maximus, Superbus, and Mignonne. Ozone, now shown by Mr. Walker, won in the champion class, beating Zänker and Faust. Maximus and Superbus were first and second in the dog class, and Mignonne 1st, and Zulette (now shown by Mrs. Hoare) 2nd, in the bitch class.

The cup for the best dachshund in the show was awarded to Mignonne. Of the brothers Maximus and Superbus—the former had more quality, was better in skull and loin, while Superbus had the better ears and more bone, and these qualities each dog seemed to transmit to his stock. Soon after this show Superbus

went to Mr. Hoare's kennel, and, after the Kennel Club show, in January, 1883, Maximus went to Mr. Walker's kennel.

Grafin II. came out at Sheffield, and won in the puppy class, and afterwards many other prizes. She had a nice type of head, her ears were set on well, but were short; she was remarkably low, but her feet were long. The writer's Juventa, a long red bitch of the right type and a rare bred one by Zigzag ex Rubina, was second in the bitch puppy class. Mr. Southwell's Seidel, a puppy by Malt ex Erdine, was 1st, this was a nice quality bitch, but her ears were set on rather high and she was light in bone. Mr. Litt brought out Olympian in the puppy class at Cirencester, when he won 1st. He afterwards went to Birmingham, where he was only commended; but at the Kennel Club, the following month, he won 1st, Superbus only getting 3rd, being beaten by Faust III., a capital son of Faust and Zulette—capital body, legs and feet, but short in ears. Mr. Wootten brought out a puppy in Zeyn, by Zigzag ex Hagar—very good type with powerful loin, but not nice in colour. He won first in the puppy class and in the produce stakes. At the Kennel Club show in July, 1883, Mr. Arkwright's Lady made her *début*, and won first in the puppy class, the club sweepstakes, and the silver medal. She had a grand head, ears well carried and long, good body, excellent bone; her elbows were not quite right. Another good bitch that came out at this show was Mr. Byron's Sylvia, by Wag ex Beckah—very good head but light in body and bone.

Mrs. Hoare at this time had a strong team, including Superbus, Carlowitz, Vandunck, Gräfin II., Gretel IV., Rapunzel, Zither, and Zulette. Zither was most successful in the puppy classes. She was a very good dachshund, rather large, and wanting in loin. There was an excellent lot of dachshunds at the Kennel Club show in January, 1884. The four best dogs then going were in the challenge class, viz., Superbus, Maximus, Ozone, and Olympian, the latter won. He had a very good head and ears, but was beaten in body, legs, feet, and stern by each of the

others. It was generally considered Maximus should have won. Mrs. Hoare brought out a chocolate coloured puppy in Drachen, bred by Mr. Wootten by Zigzag ex Hagar, a subsequent litter to Zeyn, when he won third open class, second puppy class, and third in the produce stakes. In the open bitch class some astonishment was caused when Mr. Askwith's Shotover was placed 1st and Mr. Hazlewood's Schlank 2nd, when such good dachshunds as Mr. Wootten's Zulima, Mrs. Hoare's Rapunzel, and Zither, and Lady (now owned by Mr. Knight Bruce) were in the class. Wiggle came out at this show, but was only h.c. She was a nice type of dachshund, but weakish in loin.

Warwick show was now becoming popular, and the dachshunds benched there in 1884 were a particularly good lot. Mr. Walker's entry at that show consisted of Ozone, Maximus, Hagar, Culoz (an imported dog), Zulima, and Zinnia—a team that could not at that time be beaten by any kennel. Culoz was only a fair dachshund, he being short in body and not typical in head. Mrs. P. Merrik Hoare had also a strong kennel of dachshunds at this time. The puppies by Faust ex Zulette were most successful on the bench, although several of them were not good in colour. Wagtail, exhibited by the writer, came out at Tunbridge Wells, when he won 1st. She was sister to Lady (subsequent litter) but much smaller, with a beautiful head, and ears set on very low. Wagtail distinguished herself by winning the prix d'honneur for the best dachshund of all classes two years—viz., 1885 and 1886—at the show of the Royal St. Hubert Society at Brussels; and still further distinguished herself by breeding the celebrated Jackdaw, who has generally been considered the most typical and best all-round dachshund we have had.

At the Kennel Club show at the Crystal Palace, in January, 1885, a very good lot of young dachshunds came out; these included Mr. Ingram's Sphinx and Isis, Mrs. P. M. Hoare's Kirsch, Edelweiss, and Graf III., the writer's Joubert and Joan of Arc. Joubert had previously won first at Cheltenham. The dog puppy class had twenty-seven entries, and the bitch class twenty-

six, with fourteen entries in the third produce stakes; the winners in the stakes being Joan of Arc, 1st; Edelweiss, 2nd; Sphinx, 3rd; and Mr. Walker's Carlyle, 4th; Graff III. was remarkable for his beautiful skull and set on of ear, and these points he transmitted to his progeny to a great extent, notably to Stylograph and Jack o'Dandy. Joubert was a small dog, with very nice outline, deep chest, good loin, but was not particularly houndy in head. Joan of Arc much better in head, with a lot of quality, remarkable loin and chest; she continued to improve with age, and before the end of the year had worked her way up, and beaten her sire Maximus in the challenge class. Gil Blas came out at Warwick, but he showed himself badly in the ring; he was v.h.c. in the open class, and third in the puppy class. This dog let down and furnished well, and grew into a beautiful dachshund in body, legs, and feet, but was always a little faulty in head.

Mr. Arkwright brought out Belgian Waldmann at the summer show at the Crystal Palace; this dog had been very successful at the Continental shows before Mr. Arkwright purchased him from M. J. Gihoul, after having won 1st Vienna, 1st Spa, special prize at Aix-la-Chapelle, 1st and special Ostende, 1st and special Antwerp, and 1st Paris; he did not do much winning in England, but sired some good specimens, Belgian Herr being left to continue his line in future pedigrees.

The oddly-named sisters Decimus and Septimus were brought out by Mr. H. S. Dean at this show; the former was coarse in head, but Septimus, afterwards named Guinevere by Mr. Blackett, although not quite typical in head, had a beautiful body, with excellent loin and a nice size. In the puppy class she was placed second to Griselda, one of Mrs. Hoare's Faust—Zulette puppies, with wonderful head and ears, good skin and bone, but flat in loin; she eventually grew too big, and became unsound. Rubenstein was successful on the show bench, especially in the puppy classes, but he always looked like growing too big and becoming wide in skull. At Birmingham Mr. Ingram showed Indiana, a very good black and tan puppy, capital body, but a

little short in ear, and in the same class Mr. Vale's Cerise II. was first shown, then a puppy under ten months, and a very smart dachshund she was, with good length of head, excellent body and loin; she appeared a little short in ear and light in bone. Winks did some winning for Mr. Arkwright during the year; she was very typical, a good deal after the style of Wagtail, but not quite so long and low.

At the Kennel Club, Crystal Palace, February, 1886, Mr. Walker showed Charkow and Cusack, two houndy-headed puppies; they carried all before them in the open and puppy classes, and were first and second in the fourth produce stakes; these puppies were inclined to be large, but with excellent skin and bone, but failed in depth of chest and in the arched loin; another brother (Cardinal York) was introduced later, and was successful on the show bench; he was smaller and more compact.

At Warwick Mr. Arkwright won first, puppy class, and second, novice class, with Stylograph, by Graff III. ex Wiggle; this grand headed bitch had been previously shown at Hanley, when she was second to Indiana; she had a beautiful skull and set on of ear, but was spoilt by a high carriage of stern. In May the Dachshund Club and Basset-hound Club held a joint show at the Aquarium; there was a good show of dachshunds—126 entries. At this show the writer's Joubert, after being second to Maximus in the challenge class, beating Superbus, and first in the reserve, came home with a cold, and died within a week. Mr. Wootten had some large classes to judge, but most of the winners had been seen before. Mr. Byron brought out Eve, a nice red bitch; she won second in the puppy class, and was claimed by the writer, and winning five first prizes right away, when she caught distemper and died.

Belgian Waldmann's stock were brought out towards the end of the year. At Ipswich Brussels Sprout won first in the puppy class; she was a chocolate and tan, long in head, but a little high on the leg. At Birmingham Mr. Arkwright won first and medal with Belgian Herr, and Mr. Byron second, with Rufus, the

latter being particularly smart, and of great promise, but unfortunately he died soon afterwards. Mr. Marshall did some winning during the year with Zenica, a smart young bitch with excellent body and loin. Jackdaw came out at Chelmsford in 1887, and quickly got to the very top of the tree, for at the Kennel Club Show at Barn Elms he won first open, first puppy, the fifth Produce Stakes, and afterwards beat the champion class winners Maximus and Lady for the Fifty Guinea Challenge Cup, and before the end of the year had won the title of "champion." Mr. Blackett brought out Jupiter at this show, and won second; he was a nice little dog, a great deal like his sire Joubert, with plenty of quality, grand loin, but just a little light in bone. Mrs. Hoare's Sieger was a particularly nice puppy, beautiful in skull and ears, but deficient in loin. He was successful in puppy classes. Jacobin, litter brother to Jackdaw, third at Hull and Birmingham for Mr. Mudie, has since won many prizes and done good service at the stud. Jocelyn, a good-headed red, with excellent loin, swept the boards at Ryde and Trowbridge; he is full brother of Joan of Arc, but not so correct in size.

Junker II., bred by Mrs. Hoare, and afterwards shown by Mr. Marshall, was a nice little dog, with excellent ears, and did a lot of winning. Herfrida, a very small black and tan, won a number of prizes for Mr. Mudie; she had a good body, the best of legs and feet, but became plain in head, which was never quite long enough. Mr. de Courcy Peele brought two nice black and tan bitches, Phryne III., and Phyllis IV., both good dachshunds; long in head, good skin and bone, and very sound, but a little short in ear; the former has bred several winners. Scarsdale Jungfrau, by Joubert ex Lady, was an excellent dachshund, of nice quality and type; she was 3rd at the Kennel Club Show to Guinevere and Wagtail, and won first the following year; there were few better bitches, if any, than Scarsdale Jungfrau at this time, and she ran Lady close for the cup.

Among the best dachshunds that came out in 1888 must be counted Mr. Arkwright's Julius, a dog probably wanting in size

and bone, but with beautiful quality and type; he was successful at Warwick, and at the Kennel Club Show, at Barn Elms. Pterodactyl came out at Birmingham, when he was placed third, he was then ten months old and not in very good condition, but was a sound active puppy, long in head, good in loin and stern; this dog very much improved as he grew older, and furnished into one of the best of his time, winning the fifty guinea cup at Birmingham and Kennel Club Shows, and also won first prize at Spa, in 1891. Tinker, afterwards named Jack o' Dandy, came out at Liverpool and won first puppy class, and also the medal, a son of Graf III. and Rachel (litter sister to Charkow); his breeding was of the best, he had the beautiful skull of his sire, and is a great success at the stud. Mr. Ravenor's Windrush Rioter won at Birmingham, he had previously won at two local shows, and was an excellent type of dachshund, capital legs, feet, and body, but just a little heavy in head, which, however, did not improve with age. I have always understood that a sister to this dog, named Windrush Waldine, was an exceptionally good bitch, but she got hanged on the bench at a local show.

Mr. Byron brought out Duckmanton Harebell at the Kennel Club Show, Agricultural Hall, when she won first open, first novice, and sixth produce stakes, also a medal; she had a beautiful type of head, long and clean. The writer's Jealousy and Jess Croft were both successful on the bench, the former excellent in head, with good skin and bone and sound, but carried her tail too gaily; the latter was a smaller bitch with a lot of quality—her litter brother Jingle, never exhibited on account of an injury, was a most successful stud dog, and had one of the best heads since Senta's time. Mr. Vale's Melnotte II. and Venus II. did a lot of winning, and were two nice dachshunds.

Red Rose, bred by Rev. G. F. Lovell, came out at the People's Palace, she was a lengthy red bitch with nice quality. Scarsdale Julia was a small black and tan, inclined to be short in head. Stephanie won a number of prizes for Mr. Mudie; she was an excellent type of dachshund but not sound. Several new faces

appeared in 1889, but no particular dachshund of note, although some distinguished themselves as prize winners, these included Mr. Walker's Cito, Mr. Byron's Black Jack, Dr. Goullet's Jack Straw, the writer's Jay, Jam, and Jenny Wren, Mr. Arkwright's Switchback, Mr. N. D. Smith's Snapdragon, Solome, and Sheba, Mr. Mudie's Wolferl and Amsel, Captain Barry's Greta II., and Mr. Clift's Cawcawana.

Some excellent dachshunds were introduced during 1890, and, as several of these are now being exhibited, I will simply refer to their performances on the bench—Mr. Byron's Duckmanton Winkle, Mr. Vale's John o' Groat and Minimus II., Rev. G. F. Lovell's Chimes, and the writer's Janet, all being by Jingle; of these, Janet was the most successful, as she obtained the reserve to Jackdaw twice for the fifty guinea cup. A grand type of dachshund she was, she went to America in pup to Pterodactyl. Duckmanton Winkle should prove a valuable stud dog, he is the right size, of nice quality, and his breeding is of the best. The brothers John o' Groat and Minimus II., both excellent in head and ears, are somewhat deficient in chest and loin. Mr. Walker brought out Carl Rosa, and Mrs. Barry Jack Twopence and Reena, all of which did well on the bench, and are frequently now seen high up in the prize lists.

Some good puppies were introduced in 1891; several have been lost by distemper after brief show careers, these include Mr. Ravenor's Windrush Troubadour and Windrush Countess, and Mr. Woodiwiss's Keil, which were all very promising young dachshunds. Jack Boot, a brother to Keil, was a particularly smart young dog when shown in the novice class at the Kennel Club Show; and Mr. Mudie brought out a very good couple in Thorolf and Thorgerda. Mr. J. W. Taylor exhibited a black and tan bitch of excellent type in Hypatia, but she was too large.

The above contribution gives a complete history of the dachshund and the leading kennels in this country during the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Jones believes our modern dachshunds are far more typical than they have ever been, and with this opinion I thoroughly coincide. There may be cases in which legs, feet, chest, and loin have been neglected in trying to produce beautiful heads, but this has not been carried out to any great extent. The best dachshunds of to-day are particularly sound, have excellent chest and loins, and, considering their short legs and long bodies, get over the ground at almost an extraordinary rate.

Although, as I have previously stated, the dachshund is usually kept in this country as a companion and for show purposes, he is quite capable as a sporting dog. Personally, I have never seen one of the little hounds at work, so for information as to their abilities in this respect I cannot speak of my own knowledge. Again Mr. Jones kindly acceded to my wishes and furnishes the following very interesting account of three or four days badger hunting with dachshunds of his own. That they acquitted themselves with credit no one will deny, and at any rate performed their duties quite as well (perhaps better) as our terriers would have done under similar circumstances.

"I had some excellent sport with dachshunds in the spring of 1878. I arranged to pay three visits to friends, all of whom promised to introduce me to

some badgers in their wild state. I started for Gloucestershire with two couples of dachshunds, each about three years old and well used to going to ground. The first time we went out was on the Wednesday before the Good Friday. It was full moon, and the night was very bright and still. In addition to the four dachshunds my friends ran four terriers. The earthstopper had gone on before and stopped all the main earths, and remained by them until we came. We did not net any of the places, our object being to run a badger to ground in a small earth and dig him out.

"From 2 a.m. to 5 p.m. the little pack hunted well, and were very merry sometimes; but it was the thickest underwood I was ever in. When you left a ride you were lost amid the tangle of brambles. A badger was viewed once, and had a sharp tussle with one of the terriers. The dachshunds kept well together, and on one occasion hunted out in the open for a long way, but I think they were then on the line of a fox. However, at about 5 a.m. it was found that one of the main earths had been unstopped, and two of the terriers could be heard hard at it in different places. Being well supplied with digging appliances we commenced operations, and about 10 a.m. had dug to one of the terriers, which we found terribly torn and bitten. After

getting the terrier out, a dachshund was put in, and we soon saw him backing slowly out, and, to our astonishment, he brought with him a young badger, not quite half grown, dead and nearly cold. This the terrier must have killed early in the morning.

"The dachshund was sent to ground again, and he was soon heard baying close to where we had heard the other terrier, but his voice was so loud we could tell exactly where he was.

"Then, by about twelve o'clock, we had dug to the second terrier, and he was more injured than the first, so they were both sent home.

"The badger now seemed to shift his quarters, for, on putting a second dachshund in, we heard both dogs baying quite close together in a different place, and, after the quietness of the terriers, the loud baying of the dachshunds seemed to encourage the men in their digging, for there was no doubt as to the whereabouts of the dogs. About 3 p.m. we dug down to them, and soon bagged a very fine badger.

"Knowing, however, that there was more than one badger in, for the terriers had been working at different places, the four dachshunds were all sent underground together. They could not find the other badger, but one of them brought out

another half grown one that had been killed by the terriers.

"I left that night (Thursday) for Monmouthshire, and after midnight on Good Friday we started off with the four little hounds and a couple of rough haired terriers for some very large woods, but with good rides in them. All the earths were well attended to with faggot bundles, the last of them was being stopped when we arrived. The night was cloudy and occasionally quite dark, but the dogs hunted very well, and were close on to a badger several times, but failed to mark one to ground. About 6 a.m. the dachshunds (both terriers had been badly bitten in the wood, and were sent to the inn) took a line towards the river Usk. This line they hunted very prettily for a long way, when two of them went to ground by the riverside in an earth about six feet below the top of the bank, and in a moment they were baying in a way that left no doubt they were at something. I was half afraid it might be a fox, but some hairs picked off the sides and top of the entrance proved it was used by badgers; and the unmistakable imprint of the badger's nails, quite fresh, close to the entrance, settled the question.

"Before commencing digging, the men expressed a great wish to send to the village for a noted

terrier that was there; but this we would not permit, and they did not hesitate to say they had no confidence in a dachshund at a 'dig out,' but how they had reason to change their opinions will be told later on.

"The earth ran nearly straight under the field, not more than some five or six feet deep, and the loud voices of the dachshunds could very plainly be heard baiting their game. We cut a trench right across what we thought would be about the end of the earth, leaving plenty of room to work; but just as we broke into the earth the badger went 10 or 12 feet further underground, the dogs following him close up. Thus there was nothing for it but to dig another trench, having first securely stopped the earth towards the river. This second trench cut right into the end of the earth, and but for the spade touching the badger we should have bagged him then, but he went forward facing the dogs, and remained about half way between the two trenches.

"I then put the other two dogs in from the end of the earth, and at it they went, and whichever way the badger faced he was attacked in the rear.

"He showed himself several times at the mouth of the hole, but we missed him with the tongs. At last he made a bolt in a hurry, and over went the man with the tongs, who was then on his knees,

looking down the hole, and, jumping up the corner of the trench, the badger made for the river bank.

"A shepherd had come to look on, and, having his sheepdog with him, the latter immediately gave chase, catching the badger up just as he reached the edge of the bank. The badger landed beautifully on the narrow ledge upon which the earth opened, but the poor sheepdog went right over the bank, down to the bed of the river, a fall of nearly twenty feet. The dachshunds were helped out of the trench, everyone ran and halloaed, and there was great excitement. The badger turned up a dry ditch full of brambles, and, by the combined aid of the dachshunds and the sheepdog, was ultimately bagged.

"On the Monday I was driven about fourteen miles for a third hunt, as my friend had seen a badger quite recently in the wood, and had made all arrangements for stopping the earths. I took the recently caught badger with me, as it was wanted to turn down, and the one we had bagged on the Thursday was of the wrong sex. The moon was late in rising, so we did not leave the house until 2.30 a.m. on Tuesday. The earth-stopper had all the main earths stopped, and a fire burning in front, by which he had made himself comfortable.

"This night we had only the four dachshunds;

they did a lot of hunting, several times running well, and giving plenty of music. They worked round the big wood twice, and when near the middle two badgers were seen quite close together, one following the other, and not far behind was old Waldmann, throwing his tongue freely on their line. My friend gave a view holloa that could be heard all up the hillside, and soon afterwards these two badgers were run to ground in a small earth. Waldmann got in before he could be taken up, and I could not get him out. I had particularly wanted to run a red bitch that had not done much work.

"We again dug a trench right across the line of the earth beyond where we judged the badgers to lie. To prevent them making a bolt we stopped the earth behind the dog with a large stone, leaving only a small hole to admit the air. We dug right on to the nose of one badger, which itself was digging as hard as it could, and had nearly buried himself, still we got it. Then we cleared the earth out, and in trying to get hold of the second with the tongs caused it to make a drive at poor old Waldmann, who was blocked in with the stone. The dog received an ugly bite, but we soon had our second badger in the sack.

"I returned that night with only one damaged dog, and three very successful 'dig-outs.'

"When we went to the stables for the dogs and Saturday's badger, and had not very much time for the train, we discovered our badger had got out of the box, and was not to be found. A cast round with the dogs and they marked him up the chimney in the harness room; he had reached a ledge in the flue, and get him down we could not, so had to leave him. He was ultimately taken and sent on, and I believe helped to make several good earths that are now used by foxes.

"The following moon I took the same four dachshunds into Warwickshire, where I had often been with my terriers on former occasions; but this was the first introduction of the dachshunds. We tried to run a badger into the nets, but were not successful, though the dachshunds found one in the meadows, and had some capital hunting before they lost him. There were a lot of rabbits about here, and I rather think they caused our hounds to run riot a little.

"After breakfast we had a walk round all the likely places where the badgers might have gone, taking a hardy-looking terrier with us, one, however, too big to get to ground. About 10 a.m. the dachshunds marked a badger in a nice little earth, and, before lunch, we had him in a sack; one man was bitten in the thumb by the badger, and our host was

bitten in the leg by a dachshund. In the excitement of 'bagging' he picked one of the dachshunds up by the tail, flinging him under his arm, and was stooping down and picking up another, when No. 1 pinned him in the calf of the leg. Needless to say he dropped the two dogs.

"The biting for that day was not yet over, for, when talking at lunch of taking the badger on the bank of the Usk, the question was raised, could the four dachshunds so hamper a badger in the open as to enable him to be taken with the tongs? Nothing would satisfy the party but a trial, so the badger was turned out in a very hilly field, when he made off up hill, and from the way in which he bowled the dachshunds over, I have no doubt he would have got away, had not the big terrier been slipped. During the process of getting hold of the badger, a terrier puppy, about nine months, came up from the house, and hearing a great deal of 'loo loo,' and not knowing quite what to do, quietly seized the man who was energetically trying to get hold of the badger with the tongs, and left his mark on him.

"I have had many such days, of which the above are fair examples, and from these results am quite convinced that for digging out a fox or badger, nothing can beat a properly entered dachshund."

Although new breeds of dogs are being intro-

duced, I fancy that the dachshund will continue to hold his own, for he is by no means difficult to rear from puppyhood, and, as I have already stated, is a desirable dog as a companion. He is, moreover, one of the canine favourites of Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor. Seldom used for his particular work in this country, nor for hunting in packs, for our beagles and harriers will do the latter better than he, and, in going to ground after fox or badger or otter we have our own terriers, which we cannot afford to lose; still, the dachshund has deservedly popularised himself, and when in his puppydom he has chased a sheep or made a raid on the poultry yard, it is no more than other young untrained dogs of our own have done and will do to the end.

The fact that the dachshund has a peculiarly nice skin makes him specially adaptable as an agreeable pet dog; and when to this is added a pleasant face, an endearing disposition, and, for a hound, a tolerable immunity from the aroma of the kennel, there is little wonder he has become popular. Perhaps at the present time his classes on the show bench do not fill quite as well as they did some half-dozen years ago, but this does not arise from any waning popularity as a companion and as a house dog.

What a dachshund in the flesh is like, Mr.

Wardle's drawings at the commencement of this chapter plainly tell, and the following standard, drawn up by the Club, will give additional knowledge to the searchers for information.

"*Head and skull.*—Long, level, and narrow; peak well developed; no stop; eyes intelligent, and somewhat small; follow body in colour.

"*Ears.*—Long, broad, and soft; set on low and well back; carried close to the head.

"*Jaw.*—Strong, level, and square to the muzzle; canines recurvent.

"*Chest*—Deep and narrow; breast bone prominent.

"*Legs and feet.*—Fore legs very short and strong in bone, well crooked, not standing over; elbows well clothed with muscle, neither in nor out; feet large, round, and strong, with thick pads and strong nails. Hind legs smaller in bone and higher, hind feet smaller. The dog must stand true, *i.e.*, equally on all parts of the foot.

"*Skin and coat.*—Skin thick, loose, supple, and in great quantity; coat dense, short and strong.

"*Loin.*—Well arched, long and muscular.

"*Stern.*—Long and strong, flat at root, tapering to the tip; hair on under side coarse; carried low except when excited. Quarters very muscular.

"*Body.*—Length from back of head to root of

stern, two and a half times the height at shoulder. Fore ribs well sprung, back ribs very short.

"*Colour.*—Any colour, nose to follow body colour; much white objectionable.

"*Symmetry and quality.*—The dachshund should be long, low and graceful, not cloddy.

Head and skull	12	Ears	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Jaw	5	Chest	7
Legs and feet	20	Skin and coat	13
Loin	8	Stern.....	5
Body	$8\frac{1}{2}$	Colour	4
Symmetry and quality	11		
	$64\frac{1}{2}$		$35\frac{1}{2}$

Grand Total 100.

"The weight: Dogs about 21lb., bitches about 18lb.

"The Dachshund Club do not advocate point judging, the figures are only used to show the comparative value of the features."

It will be noticed in the above Club description that "any colour" is allowed, with only the proviso that "much white is objectionable." The accepted colours with us are red, black and tan, chocolate (or brown), and chocolate and tan. There is some variation in the shades of hue, especially amongst the reds, some of which are so pale as to be almost yellow. The black and tans and the deeper reds are

the handsomest, and a white foot or feet and a little white on the breast are no detriment. Mouse coloured specimens are occasionally met, sometimes with tan shadings, sometimes without. This is not a desirable colour, and "wall" or "china eyes" often accompany it. The dachshund is what may be termed a whole coloured dog, at least, this is what we have made him here since his adoption.

White as the ground colour is as objectionable in Germany as with us, but on the continent a greater variety of colour is allowed Herr Beckemann giving the legitimate colours, dividing them into four groups as follows:

"First, black, chocolate, light brown (red), hare pied, all with tan shadings. Secondly, the same colour without the tan markings. Thirdly, slate, mouse, silver grey, either whole coloured or with tan marks; eyes, blueish or colourless (wall eyed); and fourthly, variegated, slate, mouse, silver grey with irregular black, chocolate or tan marks and blotches, with or without tan, and with one or two 'wall eyes.' Any one of these colours is as good as another in the Fatherland, but in case two dogs are of equal merit in other respects, the black and tan is to be preferred, or the dog most richly coloured and free from white."

As to the voice or cry of the dachshund. He is

not, as a rule, so free with his tongue as either the basset hound or beagle, but, of course, there are exceptions to this. One old hound, Mr. Harry Jones's Dina, was particularly musical in this respect, and her voice, in addition to being loud, was beautifully deep and mellow. Her daughter, Juliet, though equally free, had a much less pleasing note.

There is no doubt that where dachshunds have been entered to work with terriers and used for the duties usually ascribed to a terrier, they are inclined to hunt with less music than if used as a pack or worked in connection with basset-hounds. Indeed, this is pretty much the case with all hounds, and I have known a foxhound hunt pretty nearly mute when alone, but in company with his pack be as free with his tongue as any other hound.

An instance occurs to me, that of Rally, a favourite otter hound bitch with the late Kendal pack. Bred by Mr. Coulter, one of the good old school of sportsmen, she had been entered almost single-handed, and for a time, even on the strongest line, ran quite mute. After a season or two with the pack, she came to throw her tongue with the best of its members, and proved a most reliable and careful hound.

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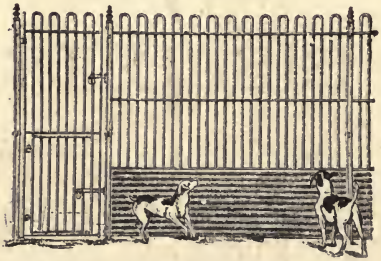

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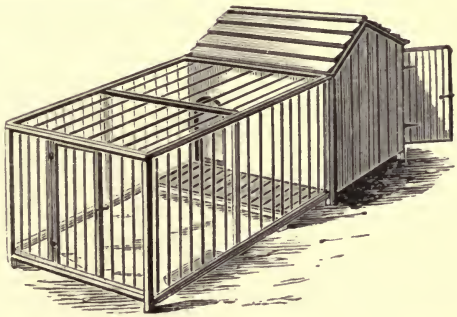

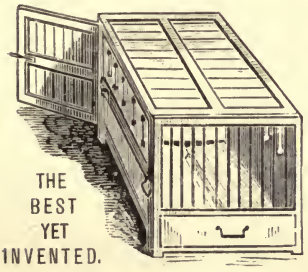

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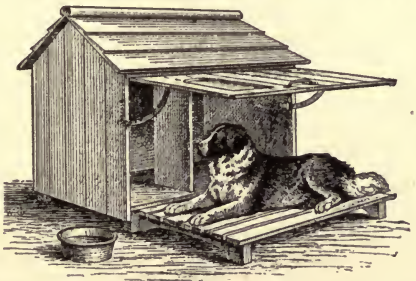

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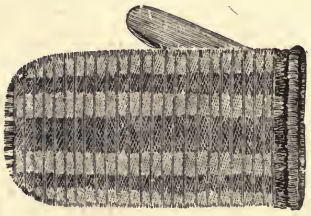
HOUND  GLOVE.

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